

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 71
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Orange bellied parrot
Hansard Page:
Question Date: 10 March 2017
Question Type: Written

Senator Whish-Wilson asked:

In January 2017 it was reported that up to 16 orange-bellied parrots died as a result of exposure to bacteria at the Tasmanian Government's captive breeding program in Taroona. Has the Department assessed the Taroona captive breeding facility and management practices following the recent deaths? What are the conclusions of this assessment?

Answer:

Following the mortality event at Taroona, the Tasmanian Government undertook a full investigation into all aspects of the breeding program in order to establish the cause of the mortalities and to put in place measures to avoid further deaths. This includes close collaboration between the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, Tasmania (DPIPWE) vets and members from the Orange-bellied Parrot Veterinary Technical Reference Group. In addition, the Tasmanian Government engaged Associate Professor David Phalen to review the events at Taroona and Dr Andrew Peters to review the operations at the release grounds at Melaleuca. Associate Professor Phalen's review has been finalised and is being considered by DPIPWE. Dr Peters' review is currently being finalised.