

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 73
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Orange bellied parrot - Breeding Program in Tarooma
Hansard Page: -
Question Date: 14 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 Tarooma.

Has the Department advised the Tasmanian Government on its captive breeding facility and management practices following the recent deaths? What was this advice?

Answer:

It is not the Australian Government's role to advise the Tasmanian Government on the operation of their captive breeding facilities. The Tasmanian Government has its own expertise and advisors and we are confident in the ability of the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), Tasmania, to adequately investigate the event.

Following the mortality event at Tarooma, 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 included close collaboration between 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 Tarooma 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.

The Department has been kept informed of the review process and any management responses through direct contact with DPIPWE and through engagement in the Recovery Team.