

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

Question No: 81
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Environment Standards Division (ESD)
Topic: Adani – Offsets strategy publication
Hansard Page: -
Question Date: 10 March 2017
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

Can you explain the background to the variation to the approval conditions for the mine which was made on 5 January 2017? As far as we can tell, it simply gives Adani an extra month to publish their detailed baseline studies of threatened species and other Matters of National Environmental Significance in relation to their biodiversity offsets.

Answer:

On 21 December 2016 Adani Mining Pty Ltd requested an extension to the period for submission of the Offset Area Management Plan required under Condition 13, which was three months after the approval of the Biodiversity Offsets Strategy. Adani sought the extension because the Strategy required approval by both the Australian Government and the Queensland Government.

The Queensland Government did not approve the Biodiversity Offsets Strategy until 25 October 2016, which left Adani six weeks to complete the Offset Area Management Plan. It was also recognised that the 2016-17 Christmas break would impact on Adani's ability to confer with relevant experts and appropriate areas of government. A variation was therefore approved by the delegate in order to allow reasonable time to submit a well prepared Biodiversity Offsets Strategy.

The first draft of the *Offset Area Management Plan (Moray Downs West – Offset Delivery Stage 1 – Carmichael Coal Mine and Rail Project)* (dated 3 February 2017) was submitted on 6 February 2017.