

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

Question No: 87
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Environment Standards Division (ESD)
Topic: Toondah Harbour development - Brisbane
Hansard Page:
Question Date: 10 March 2017
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

There have been reports that the department is considering wetland offsets for the Toondah Harbour project that will be delivered in Asia – in particular it's been reported as a “pilot migratory shorebird offset in the Yellow Sea with an international wetlands organisation”

How would compliance under such arrangements work? What would Australia's jurisdiction be to enforce compliance? What is the Department's general view of biodiversity offsets which happen overseas, outside Australia? Is that acceptable?

Answer:

A decision has not yet been made on whether the proposal is a 'controlled action' under s.75 of the EPBC Act. A decision on the referral is due on 17 July 2017. Offsets, and other potential conditions on an approval, are matters that are considered for proposals that have been determined to be a 'controlled action'.