

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

Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment and Energy portfolio**

**Question No:** 8  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Program:** Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)  
**Topic:** Threatened Species – Freshwater Crayfish  
**Hansard Page:** 113  
**Question Date:** 10 March 2017  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Whish-Wilson asked:**

Senator WHISH-WILSON: I have two more questions. One is about *astacopsis caldi*, the freshwater crayfish or lobster. I managed to see a blue one recently. Apparently there is only one stream in the world where they are blue. It happens to also have been a river catchment where Forestry Tasmania is planning to clear-fell rainforest and go back in there. I understand there has not been any work done on recovery plans or studying that species since 2016. I know, sadly, there are too many threatened endangered species for you guys at the moment to be dealing with but do you know if there has been any work at all on that species?

Mr Andrews: I need to take that on notice because there are 1,900 species and I do not have any notes on that one.

**Answer:**

- The Australian Government is finalising the national Recovery Plan for the giant freshwater crayfish (*Astacopsis gouldi*). The Department has worked closely with the Tasmanian Government during the development of the Recovery Plan and, in particular, had detailed discussions with the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), Forestry Tasmania and the Forests Practices Authority.
- The draft Recovery Plan proposes:
  - a scientifically robust methodology be developed to identify ‘key locations’; and
  - that opportunities to incorporate key locations for the crayfish into public or private reserve systems are explored.
- The Federal Government has also contributed two Green Army projects to reduce weed incursion to protect the giant freshwater crayfish.