

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

**Question No:** 110  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1.4  
**Programme:** Wildlife, Heritage and Marine Division  
**Topic:** Christmas Island Biodiversity Conservation Plan – delay  
**Hansard Page:**  
**Question Date:**  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

The plan was intended to be finalised for consideration for the Minister by mid-2015. Will that deadline be met by the Department? What will a delay mean for the 17 endangered species on Christmas Island, particularly the 5 critically endangered species?

**Answer:**

This deadline will not be met. The delay will not impact on the island's listed threatened species as key threat abatement programs, like feral cat and yellow crazy ant control, are underway. Existing recovery plans covering 10 listed species are still in force and guiding recovery action, while approved conservation advices for the remaining species are also in place.

It is expected that the draft recovery plan will be finalised for consideration by the Minister in December 2015 pending advice from the Threatened Species Scientific Committee being finalised at its November meeting.