

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

Question No: 135
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1.5
Programme: Environment Assessment and Compliance Division (EACD)
Topic: Whitehaven
Hansard Page: 59
Question Date: 26 May 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters asked:

Mr Knudson: I would just add that on March 17 Whitehaven submitted a revised offset management plan in accordance with condition No. 32 and we are currently assessing that plan for potential approval or otherwise.

Senator WATERS: A revised offset plan. Was that to include those additional areas that they had been required to obtain after the independent review or are there other features that I should be aware of?

Mr Knudson: Fundamentally, it was addressing the issues associated with the—

Mr Gaddes: I will have to take that one on notice, because I do not have the available information in front of me. I would be able to characterise it as significant progress in securing the majority of offsets that they need to.

Answer:

1. The Biodiversity Management Plan was submitted to the Department on 17 March 2015. The total proposed Commonwealth offset areas in the plan cover 13,113.7 hectares. This area incorporates the sum of the NSW revised offset areas and the additional proposed Commonwealth offset areas.