

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

Question No: 142
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1.5
Programme: Environment Assessment and Compliance Division (EACD)
Topic: Maules Creek
Hansard Page:
Question Date:
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

1. Has there been any change approved to the biodiversity corridor which was the subject of media reporting early in 2015?
2. When was that decision made?
3. Has Whitehaven asked for any variation?
4. Have Whitehaven secured the proposed offsets areas , including those extra properties identified in the Independent Review of Offsets by Greenloaning Biostudies?
5. Have the offsets sites Cattle Plains and Blue Range been secured by the proponent?
6. Is the Department aware of when negotiations commenced to secure the above two sites?
7. Has Whitehaven submitted a revised Offsets Management Plan? When was it submitted?

Answer:

1. There have been no changes approved to the biodiversity corridor.
2. A decision has not been made.
3. The approval holder (Whitehaven) has not requested a variation to the biodiversity corridor.
4. The Department is currently considering a revised Biodiversity Management Plan in accordance with the conditions of approval. If this plan were approved, which includes those extra properties identified by the independent review, the offset areas may be secured by the approval holder.
5. The securing of offset sites is a matter for the approval holder to consider. The Department will ensure that offsets are secured in accordance with the conditions of approval.
6. The timing of negotiations to secure individual properties is a matter for the approval holder to consider and the Department will ensure that any individual properties are secured in accordance with the conditions of approval.
7. The Department received a Revised Offset Management Plan on 17 March 2015. The Department is currently considering this plan in accordance with conditions.