

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

Question No: 85
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1.4
Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: World Heritage Listing for Royal National Park
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Question Type: Spoken

Senator Rhiannon asked:

Mr Oxley: Yes, it must be on the tentative list for 12 months before it can be considered for inscription on the World Heritage List. Obviously, the process that is being run by New South Wales did not result in all of the evidence necessary to support a nomination being collated in the time frame that would have allowed submission for the tentative list this year. I am very confident New South Wales is working hard to bring forward a tentative listing proposal for consideration in the next cycle.

Senator RHIANNON: So, when you said it has been 'very active', we are talking over 18 months. What were you basing the words 'very active' on? What has happened?

Mr Oxley: Perhaps it has been a bit generous with language. I do know that they have been undertaking analysis assessment to look at the values of the place, and one of the things that needs to be done is a comparative assessment to identify the value of the place relative to equivalent places throughout the world. That is the sort of work that is being undertaken by New South Wales.

Senator RHIANNON: Could you take it on notice to provide details of what the analysis and what the comparative assessment are? Do you have information on that?

Mr Oxley: Yes.

Answer:

The New South Wales Government commissioned GML Heritage to provide an expert assessment of Royal National Park and Reserves for potential World Heritage nomination. GML Heritage's report, the *Royal National Park and Reserves World Heritage Tentative List Submission* was peer reviewed by Context Pty Ltd. As announced on 18 March 2015, the New South Wales Government will complete an external review of the preliminary research that has been undertaken. The New South Wales Government will provide further advice to the Australian Government once the review is complete.