

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

Question No: 87
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1.4
Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Dolphins
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Question Type: Spoken

Senator Rhiannon asked:

Mr Oxley: Just in terms of the question about how the system works, whether we are able to track the provenance, so to speak, of the animal that comes into Australia, to the extent that we have an answer to that question we will come back to you on notice with an explanation of how that system works.

Senator RHIANNON: How the system works?

Mr Oxley: Yes.

Senator RHIANNON: It was also specifically about your database. If you have marine mammals coming from China or any other country, do you know where it was imported from before it went into that country? Surely, that is what we need to be clear on.

Mr Oxley: Yes, we will come back and answer that question.

Answer:

All parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) are required to report data on international trade of CITES listed species, which includes dolphins. The trade information comprises import, export and re-export data and is recorded in the international CITES Trade Database and is publicly accessible.

An application to import a marine mammal into Australia such as a dolphin is assessed against the requirements of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The permit application must provide information identifying the country of origin, the original export permit number, the date when the mammal was legally sourced in the country of origin, and the country of last re-export.