

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

Question No: 88
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1.4
Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Mammals
Hansard Page: 69
Question Date: 26 May 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Rhiannon asked:

Senator Rhiannon: I understand rescued terrestrial wildlife must generally be returned back to the wild under soft release conditions if they have been in quite long-term care. Are rescued dolphins at Sea World protected by the requirement that they will be rehabilitated back into their natural environment?

Mr Oxley: You are in a line of inquiry that I do not think we are able to answer at the table. If we may, we will take that on notice.

Answer:

The management of dolphins within state jurisdictions is a matter for the relevant state government. The Department has spoken to a member of the Research and Rescue team at Sea World who indicated that the decision to release or not release rescued dolphins is undertaken in consultation with the QLD Government Parks and Wildlife Service. More information can be found at Sea Worlds website at <http://seaworld.com.au/research-and-rescue.aspx>.