

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

Question No: 117
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Environment Standards Division (ESD)
Topic: Tree clearing applications
Hansard Page:
Question Date: 08 June 2017
Question Type: Written

Senator Reynolds asked:

In 2013-2015, there were approximately 54 tree clearing applications approved in Queensland. 44 applications were 'cleared' by the Department as not requiring further investigation. – were the obligations under the EPBC Act considered in the approval?

Of the 10 applications left, how many were clients of Mr Peter Spies?

Of the 44 applications 'cleared' by the Department, was a consultant engaged to consider or prepare a report or risk assessment?

Answer:

The tree clearing approvals referred to were provided by Queensland under relevant state law and therefore EPBC Act obligations (which are a Commonwealth responsibility) were not relevant.

EPBC Act obligations did though, form the basis for the Department's consideration of these actions, including the 44 that it was established did not require further investigation.

The Department is not aware of how many of the 10 applications were clients of Mr Peter Spies. That is a matter for Mr Spies and his clients.

Yes, where required consultants were engaged in a number of cases.