

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 82
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Recovery plans
Hansard Page: 82
Question Date: 22 May 2017
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Rice asked:

Senator RICE: So are there instances where the TSSC has recommended a recovery plan and no action has yet been taken to begin the development of it or to fast-track the development of it? I know that there are many recovery plans that have taken an awful long time in their development.

Mr Richardson: I could not point to examples. I would have to take it on notice to say whether the committee since 2007 has recommended a recovery plan, the minister has accepted that and we have not yet commenced it. I think it would be a small minority, if there are those out there. For the bulk of those plans from 2007 onwards, again, we have been consulting and engaging with the states and territories to commence development. We have talked about some of those in past estimates and about some difficulties with that. There are some that we have picked up and finished ourselves. Essentially they end up as plans made by the Commonwealth rather than state plans adopted by the Commonwealth. But that is time consuming and resource intensive.

Answer:

As of 21 June 2017, there are 446 national recovery plans in force which cover 752 listed species and ecological communities.

There are 180 species and ecological communities that do not currently have a recovery plan in place, following a decision to develop a recovery plan. Of these, 108 species and ecological communities have recovery plans in various stages of preparation. The remaining 72 had previously had recovery plans in place, however they have since lapsed or 'sunsetted' under the *Legislation Act 2003* and are no longer in force. All of these species have an approved Conservation Advice to guide recovery actions. Conservation Advices are prepared by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee and published on the department's website.