

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

Question No: 92
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Rhinoceros – Security
Hansard Page:
Question Date: 08 June 2017
Question Type: Written

Senator Rhiannon asked:

With regard to the 80 rhinos to be imported to Australia from South Africa
Given the high financial value of rhinoceros horns, what risk assessment has been conducted on the venture, including from the point when rhinos leave South Africa? i. Please provide a copy of that risk assessment.

Answer:

The Department has not received a permit application for the import of these rhinoceros. A risk assessment has not been undertaken by the Department. Should an import permit application be received, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* has a number of requirements that must be met before a permit can be issued.

These requirements include that the Minister must be satisfied that the person or institution receiving the animal is suitably equipped to manage, confine and care for the animal, including providing secure housing facilities.

The import is required to be part of an approved Cooperative Conservation Program. These programs are operated with the intention of conserving a species (in the wild or in captivity, or both) and which apply best practice to the management of husbandry, genetics, biology and behavioural needs of the species.