

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

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 95
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Rhinoceros –CITES
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
How will the Australian CITES Scientific Authority establish whether the transfer will satisfy the requirements of Res Conf 11.20, particularly with respect to the receiving facilities being 'appropriate and acceptable', and that the trade would promote in situ conservation?

Answer:

The Department has not received a permit application for the import of these rhinoceros from South Africa.

Australia implements CITES requirements under Part 13A of the EPBC Act and the associated EPBC Regulations. Should an import permit application be received, it will be assessed against the EPBC Act and EPBC Regulations.

The Zoo and Aquarium Association's *Australian species management program for southern white rhinoceros* is approved as a cooperative conservation program under the EPBC Act (see www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-trade/trading/non-commercial/register-approved-cooperative-conservation-programs).

A cooperative conservation program is a breeding and/or management program that aims to conserve a species (in the wild or in captivity, or both). The program's objectives must be based on the conservation status and needs of the species, and the program must not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.