

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

Question No: 96
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Wildlife Trade Management
Hansard Page:
Question Date: 08 June 2017
Question Type: Written

Senator Lee asked:

In March 2015 the Australian National Audit Office undertook an audit into the Department of Environment's management and compliance arrangements for governing wildlife trade. The ANAO gave a series of recommendations which were agreed to by the Department. What has the Environment Department done since the audit report to improve its compliance monitoring, IT systems and wildlife trade data? (Recommendations 1, 3 and 3)
What is the Environment Department doing to provide the public with more data on the extent of illegal trade in Australia? (Recommendation 4)

Answer:

In response to the November 2015 audit report, the Department of the Environment and Energy has:

- developed a new database for processing seized wildlife products and is currently developing a new database for issuing wildlife trade permits
- completed a wildlife trade risk assessment to help prioritise compliance actions and monitoring activities
- updated its wildlife trade compliance plan in response to the risk assessment
- drafted a communications plan for wildlife trade outreach activities
- updated web pages and commenced an evaluation of publicly available information, through a joint working group with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection
- identified minimum quantity data standards for wildlife trade seizures and commenced work to improve data exchange with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection
- improved reporting of wildlife trade regulation, including seizures data in the Department's Annual Report
- progressed the development of improved key performance indicators and targets for wildlife trade