

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

Question No: 120
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Environment Assessment and Compliance Division
Topic: MAULES CREEK COAL MINE - BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLAN
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

The most recent Biodiversity Management Plan has identified mitigation and amelioration measures for *Tylophora* plants found pre clearing which can be relocated, or seed is to be collected for replanting, providing it can be done in advance of the forest clearing plan and a strategy for relocation and offset has been proposed and approved. Is the Department confident that this approach to protecting an endangered plant is acceptable?

- a. Has the Department conducted a risk analysis of the risk that this strategy will fail?
- b. Does the Department have any examples where such as strategy has been successful in the past?
- c. On what basis does the Department believe that this provides an assurance that the population will be maintained or improved?
- d. Suitable offset properties and relocation and regeneration areas must be found and be proven to be suitable habitat to ensure that the population will be enhanced before any more clearing can occur. Will this happen?
- e. Has the above mitigation and amelioration strategy been implemented yet?
- f. What have the results been so far?

Answer:

The Biodiversity Management Plan is a requirement under Condition 52 of the New South Wales Approval. The approval holder is not required to obtain approval from the Department for this plan.

In accordance with condition 18 of the approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the Department will conduct a review of the revised Offset Management Plan when the proponent has included the details required for *Tylophora linearis* requested by the Department.