

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

Question No: 81
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Environment Assessment and Compliance Division
Topic: ANAO REPORT MANAGING COMPLIANCE WITH EPBC ACT 1999
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

In the Department's response, the Department states it has implemented a risk based case prioritisation model to focus monitoring and investigations on highest risk cases. What are the criteria used in this assessment? Does political risk or likely media interest or likely public response, form any part of this assessment, or any subsequent decision on how to focus monitoring or investigations?

Answer:

The Department has implemented a risk-based case-prioritisation model based on the Australian Crime Commission practice. This focuses investigations on the highest risk cases. The case prioritisation model is based on consideration of environmental, social, economic and political criteria.

The political criteria primarily consider whether there is an impetus to resolve the matter in a defined timeframe; and/or whether additional resources have been provided to resolve the matter. The social criteria include consideration of the level of public concern and also the magnitude of any media interest in the matter.

The Department also utilises the National Environmental Significance Threat and Risk Assessment (NESTRA) tool to focus compliance monitoring effort. Implemented on 1 July 2014 and developed with the CSIRO, NESTRA allows the Department to allocate regulatory resources to those projects that pose the highest risk to matters of national environmental significance.