

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

**Question No:** 93  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1.5  
**Programme:** Environment Standards Division  
**Topic:** Process with material – Adani decision  
**Hansard Page:** 132  
**Question Date:** 19 October 2015  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Canavan asked:**

**Senator CANAVAN:** What have you done internally to review these processes? If I were in your position and I found out this had happened I would have hit the roof. What happened after that? I will be more direct—who is to blame for this? Because this is a monumental stuff up.

**Dr de Brouwer:** I am responsible. I am the secretary of the department, so I ultimately bear responsibility. We had a discussion inside the department about how this occurred. The officers discussed it and raised it with me. When these things happen, if you institute a culture of blame and focusing on whose head will roll, to put it that way, you generate a culture where people become inward looking and risk averse and they do not take responsibility.

**Senator CANAVAN:** I will wrap it up. We will have to come back on this. Could I get the date that you were informed of this particular lack of material—that the material had not been provided?

**Dr de Brouwer:** Yes.

**Answer:**

The Department was notified by Mackay Conservation Group of their intention to seek leave to amend their application to include a further ground concerning the failure to attach conservation advices on 5 June 2015.

The Mackay Conservation Group filed their amended application to include this additional ground with the Court on 15 June 2015.

Dr de Brouwer was informed that the approved Conservation Advices were not attached to the decision brief in the week commencing 15 June 2015.