

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

**Question No:** 115  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Program:** Environment Standards Division (ESD)  
**Topic:** Upper Hunter Strategic Assessment – Fieldwork and Mapping  
**Hansard Page:** 131  
**Question Date:** 17 October 2016  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Waters, Larissa asked:**

Senator WATERS: Will the fieldwork and the mapping for the Upper Hunter Strategic Assessment include mapping of the condition of the remnant areas of those two critically endangered communities since all of the remaining patches are considered critical?

Mr Cahill: If those matters have been recently listed or changed, there would be an expectation in the strategic assessment that there would have been suitable surveys and suitable fieldwork done to be able to inform any decision or any recommendation we put to a minister.

Senator WATERS: Would the strategic assessment be able to prohibit any further clearing of the Warkworth Sands woodlands, given that all remaining patches are now considered critical to its survival?

Mr Cahill: I would have to take that on notice and look at where the current assessment is at.

**Answer:**

Avoidance, mitigation and offset mechanisms are being considered as part of the Upper Hunter Strategic Assessment to ensure the protection of matters of national environmental significance, including the Warkworth Sands Woodland of the Hunter Valley.