

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 118
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Environment Standards Division (ESD)
Topic: Western Australian Planning Commission - Carter's land
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Question Date: 21 October 2016
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Chisholm, Anthony asked:

Senator CHISHOLM: I have one question in a similar vein to Senator Moore's. It is a concern that we had about—it is a broader question but I will mention a specific case—a state approval in Western Australia, where the WA Planning Commission approved a subdivision where they had not looked at the full parcel of land. The broader question is: is there concern from a federal perspective about the state processes? For example, do you have confidence in the state processes around their environmental approvals?

Mr Cahill: It depends what process it was considered under. We accredit some state planning processes, and am sure Mr Tregurtha can add to that. We will look at those and, if they are accredited, we will rely on those processes for assessment, and so we put that through an assessment process, in terms of whether it meets the standards of the EPBC Act. In terms of the specific matter you are referring to, I am happy for that to be passed to us and to see whether it has been dealt with under a process we have accredited.

Senator CHISHOLM: The project is the Western Australian Planning Commission, the bulldozing of Carter's land.

Mr Cahill: We will look at that and take that on notice.

Answer:

Carter's land has not been referred for consideration under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Decisions on subdivisions are a state issue and the Western Australian Planning Commission does not undertake any environment assessments on behalf of the Commonwealth. If the proponent for a development considers the proposed action is likely to have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance then it should be referred to the Department of the Environment and Energy.