

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

Question No: 119
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Environment Standards Division (ESD)
Topic: Tasmanian Forests Practices Act
Hansard Page: 6
Question Date: 21 October 2016
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Duniam, Jonathon asked:

Senator DUNIAM: I have just a couple of questions in the Tasmanian context—probably following on a little bit from what Senator Chisholm was asking you. In Tasmania we have the Forest Practices Act that governs how landowners manage their land with regard to the clearance of trees. It has been put to me by a group of constituents in Tasmania that if they want to clear a certain area they have to go through the Forest Practices Act, get permission from the relevant authority in Tasmania and then also go through EPBC approvals processes. Is that the case?

Mr Tregurtha: The Forest Practices Act, to my recollection, is not one of the processes in Tasmania that is covered under the bilateral assessment agreement that we have with Tasmania. I will need to confirm that for you.

Answer:

Land clearing approval processes under the Tasmanian *Forest Practices Act 1985* are not currently accredited under the assessment bilateral agreement between the Commonwealth and the State. We have raised this issue with the Tasmanian Government to explore whether they are able to enhance their public consultation process to meet the EPBC standard for accreditation.