

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

Question No: 130
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Environment Standards Division (ESD)
Topic: EPBC Referral for Ellerton Drive Extension - Offsets
Hansard Page: n/a
Question Date: 28 October 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Rice, Janet asked:

Why does the department consider it acceptable for a proponent to seek to 'offset' the loss of an endangered ecological community for which less than five per cent of its pre-European extent is estimated to remain on the southern tablelands of NSW?

Answer:

The acceptability of an offset is determined by the Department of the Environment and Energy having regard to the requirements of the EPBC Act offsets policy, relevant recovery plans and conservation advice. In the case of the Ellerton Drive Extension project, proposed offsets will be considered as part of the assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.