

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

**Question No:** 131  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Program:** Environment Standards Division (ESD)  
**Topic:** EPBC Referral for Ellerton Drive Extension – Recovery Plan  
**Hansard Page:** n/a  
**Question Date:** 28 October 2016  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Rice, Janet asked:**

In its concurrence report, the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage states that the Ellerton Drive Extension project would fail to meet two of five objectives in the national recovery plan for box-gum woodland. Why is this acceptable, particularly given the small extent of remaining box-gum woodland?

**Answer:**

The Department of the Environment and Energy is conducting an assessment of the Ellerton Drive Extension project under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. This is a separate assessment process to the NSW environmental assessment process. The Department's assessment will consider impacts to listed threatened species and ecological communities, including box-gum woodland.