

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

Question No: 140
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Environment Standards Division (ESD)
Topic: Assessment Processes and Resources
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 01 November 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

Do the states have more resources than the Commonwealth? Are they able to do assessments more quickly than the Commonwealth?

Answer:

The purpose of entering into an assessment bilateral agreement is to accredit an existing State or Territory assessment process, thereby avoiding unnecessary regulatory duplication. An assessment process will only be accredited where the Commonwealth is satisfied that it meets the requirements of the EPBC Act and EPBC Regulations.

The Commonwealth is satisfied that assessment bilateral agreements enable assessments to be undertaken more quickly and efficiently than would otherwise be the case.