

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

Question No: 154
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Environment Standards Division (ESD)
Topic: Matters of National Significance
Hansard Page: n/a
Question Date: 24 October 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Whish-Wilson, Peter asked:

What research or studies is the Department aware of about the impacts that these three salmon farms are having on Matters of National significance?

Answer:

In October 2012, the former Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, the Hon Tony Burke MP, made a decision that an expansion to marine farming operations in Macquarie Harbour was not a controlled action under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, provided it was undertaken in a particular manner.

The former Minister's decision considered all information provided with the referral, including an analysis of the (then) current state of the environment, potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures and monitoring activities. Those referral documents are still available on the Department's website (EPBC 2012/6406).