

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

Question No: 162
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Environment Standards Division (ESD)
Topic: Shark Nets Trial - Impact Assessment
Hansard Page: n/a
Question Date: 24 October 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Whish-Wilson, Peter asked:

Will the federal government be conducting a full environmental impact assessment of the net trial as a controlled action under the EPBC Act?

Answer:

No. The Minister exempted the State of New South Wales, and those acting on behalf of the State of New South Wales, from sections 18, 18A, 20, 20A, 23 and 24A of Part 3 and Parts 7-9 of Chapter 4 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) in relation to the New South Wales North Coast Shark Meshing Trial (the trial) undertaken in accordance with the Management Plan for the NSW North Coast Shark Meshing Trial.

This exemption only relates to the specific actions outlined in the *Management Plan for the NSW North Coast Shark Meshing Trial November 2016*, and applies for the period of the trial. Any extension or continuation of the shark meshing trial beyond this period may need to be referred for assessment and approval under the EPBC Act.