

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

Question No: 56
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Giant Freshwater Lobster – Recovery Plan
Hansard Page: 124
Question Date: 24 October 2016
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Rice, Janet asked:

Senator RICE: Also then take on notice—because you probably will not be able to answer it as well—whether you believe there are sufficient reserves in the headwaters when the draft recovery plan notes that clear-fell logging in the headquarters is the major threatening process for the lobster.

Mr Richardson: I will take that on notice as well.

Answer:

At least twelve of the catchments/sub-catchments in which the giant freshwater crayfish is known or likely to occur encompass major areas of land which are protected under a variety of measures, including regional reserves, national parks, conservation areas and nature recreation areas. Protections extend into the headwaters of several of these catchments.

While considerable areas of the landscape are already incorporated into the reserve system, a key strategy of the draft recovery plan for the species is to '*Increase the reservation status and improve the quality of identified key habitat for giant freshwater crayfish*'. Actions designed to support this strategy include:

- exploring all opportunities to incorporate key locations for giant freshwater crayfish, or portions thereof, into public or private reserve systems,
- implementing mechanisms for protecting giant freshwater crayfish habitat on private land, including protecting giant freshwater crayfish habitat and enhancing riparian restoration on private land through conservation covenants or other landholder incentives, and
- encouraging the establishment of streamside reserves, similar to those applied in forest terrain, in agricultural areas.

Another key strategy of the draft recovery plan is to '*Mitigate key threats impacting upon giant freshwater crayfish habitat*'. This strategy includes actions focussed on investigating the effectiveness of current management prescriptions in headwaters, and reducing impacts in upstream reaches of key locations.