

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 64
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Grey-headed Flying Fox Recovery Plans
Hansard Page: n/a
Question Date: 31 October 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Rhiannon, Lee asked:

The Department of Environment and Energy website's threatened species profile for the grey-headed flying-fox states next to 'Recovery Plan Decision' that a Recovery Plan is required for the species.

- 1) Does this reflect a decision made under s269AA of the EPBC Act?
- 2) If so, when was this decision made?
- 3) If not, what was the decision that determined a Recovery Plan was required and when was it made?
- 4) Where is the Recovery Plan up to?
- 5) What is the responsibility of each state to ensure a Recovery Plan is written?
- 6) Given the listing of a species under the EPBC Act means that extinction of the species is a high risk, what is the Department doing to ensure Recovery Plans are written in a timely manner?

Answer:

- 1). Prior to amendments to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999 (EPBC Act) in 2006, which included the addition of Section 269AA, the Act required a Recovery Plan for each listed threatened species, except for those species which are extinct or conservation dependent. The grey-headed flying-fox *Pteropus poliocephalus* was listed on 4 December 2001, so a Recovery Plan was automatically required.
- 2). see 1) above
- 3). see 1) above
- 4). the draft Recovery Plan for the grey-headed flying-fox has been prepared, and will be released for public comment in accordance with Section 275 of the EPBC Act in late 2016.
- 5). The EPBC Act does not compel states or territories to ensure that a plan is written. The Act provides for involvement by states and territories in preparation of Recovery Plans through: consultation on plans; adoption of plans prepared by a state or territory; and, joint making of plans prepared by the Commonwealth.
- 6). Recovery Plans are resource intensive to prepare. The Department is reconsidering the continuing need for a Recovery Plan for many species where a Conservation Advice prepared under Section 266B would provide sufficient direction to conserve and recover the species. This will allow Recovery Plans to be prepared for the species where a plan provides additional benefit.