

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

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 68
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Tiger importation - ZooDoo Tasmania – Ongoing Welfare
Hansard Page: n/a
Question Date: 31 October 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Rhiannon, Lee asked:

What consideration does the Department make to the ongoing welfare of imported animals that are at risk in the wild?

Answer:

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) promotes the humane treatment of internationally traded wildlife.

Before an import permit for a live mammal can be issued under the EPBC Act, the Department is required to ensure that:

- the animal will be prepared and transported in a way that is known to result in minimal stress, risk of injury and adverse effect on the health of the animal; and
- the facility receiving the animal is suitably equipped to manage, confine and care for the animal, including meeting the behavioural and biological needs of the animal.

An assessment is conducted by the Department on the facility, including planned animal accommodation, care and diet, and experience of relevant staff.

State and territory governments have ongoing responsibility for day-to-day management of zoos and animal welfare.