

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

Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment and Energy portfolio**

**Question No:** 69  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Program:** Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)  
**Topic:** Tiger importation - ZooDoo Tasmania – Emaciated tiger  
**Hansard Page:** n/a  
**Question Date:** 31 October 2016  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Rhiannon, Lee asked:**

The tiger as ZooDoo was so emaciated that apparently Melbourne Zoo had their head vet order the animal immediately euthanised, so dire was its suffering.

- a) Given existing concerns about neglect and animal welfare issues at the facility, what consideration or investigation does the Department make when applications are made for the importation of exotic species for private zoos?
- b) It is understood ZooDoo wants to import another tiger. Will the Department consider the aforementioned concerns in its consideration of any such application?

**Answer:**

a) 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.

b) Yes.