

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

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 80
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Kangaroo Survey extrapolation methodologies
Hansard Page: n/a
Question Date: 31 October 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Rhiannon, Lee asked:

I was previously advised the department did not check state kangaroo survey or extrapolation methodologies, transect mapping or actual count data.

In Feb 2016 I asked if this was still the case, and the Department advised: "The Department does check kangaroo survey and extrapolation methodologies as part of the assessments of wildlife trade management plans"

- a) Has the department ever requested the gps'd flight paths of the survey planes and mapped those transects?
- b) Has the department ever checked whether survey transects are increased from one year to the other? How does this affect the extrapolated densities?
- c) The scientific method requires exactly the same survey and extrapolation methodologies in long term monitoring programs. Please provide details of why the Department accepts continually changing methodologies that inflate kangaroo numbers?

Answer:

a) and b) No.

The Department accepts the survey methodology described in approved wildlife trade management plans, as practised by the relevant states' kangaroo management agencies.

- c) The four state kangaroo management plans currently approved under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* describe standardised direct monitoring strategies, based on current science, for estimating kangaroo populations.