

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

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 91
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: National Heritage List - Thompson Square
Hansard Page: n/a
Question Date: 01 November 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

Has the Government given consideration to emergency listing on the National Heritage List of Thompson Square at Windsor in NSW?

Answer:

In September 2016 the Minister for the Environment and Energy received a request to include Thompson Square at Windsor, NSW in the National Heritage List using the emergency process in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The Department has sought further information from the nominator in order to determine if the place meets the emergency listing requirements of the EPBC Act, namely:

- 1) the place has or may have one or more National Heritage values; and
- 2) any of those values is under threat of a significant adverse impact; and
- 3) that threat is both likely and imminent.

A request for the emergency National Heritage listing of Thompson Square was previously submitted in 2012. At that time, the Square was also nominated to the National Heritage List as part of the annual call for nominations. The then Minister chose to wait for the outcome of the Australian Heritage Council's (Council) consideration of the nomination submitted as part of the annual call for nominations before considering the emergency listing application. Following Council's findings that it was unlikely the place would meet any of the National Heritage criteria, the Minister chose not to include Thompson Square in the National Heritage List using the emergency process in 2012.