

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

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 92
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Giant Kelp Marine Forests of South East Australia
Hansard Page: n/a
Question Date: 24 October 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Whish-Wilson, Peter asked:

What evidence does the department have about the decline of the Giant Kelp Marine Forests of South East Australia since the 2012 listing as a threatened ecological community?

Answer:

The Department does not routinely undertake monitoring of EPBC Act listed ecological communities. At the time of listing the Giant Kelp Marine Forests of South East Australia ecological community as Endangered under the EPBC Act there was scientific evidence available of significant declines of this ecological community. The Department is aware of media reports of further decline since this time but is not aware of any scientific evidence to support those reports.