

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 37
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 5
Programme: Environment Assessment and Compliance Division
Topic: Projects approved under the EPBC Act
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Question Type: Spoken

Senator Pratt asked:

Senator PRATT: Okay. I have two last questions. There has been a great deal of mining development in the Galilee Basin in recent years. We know this has coincided with construction and expansions of ports and that coalmining operations must have a limited life span. Can you tell the committee what that life span is and how it compares to the expected health of the reef over the same period? Will the reef continue to deteriorate over the lifetime of the mines, and how will it look at the end of that period?

Dr Dripps: As the secretary has indicated, information about the life span of mines is beyond the scope of the portfolio generally, but we will take on notice answering that question for the specific approved projects that have been approved under the EPBC Act. In terms of your questions about the future trajectory of the health of the reef, I suggest they are best asked of Dr Reichelt.

Answer:

Three coal mines in the Galilee Basin, Queensland have been approved under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The duration of those approvals is summarised below.

Project name	EPBC Act approval decision date	Approval has effect until
Alpha Coal Mine and Rail project (EPBC 2008/4648)	23 August 2012	1 September 2053
Kevin's Corner project (EPBC 2009/5033)	1 November 2013	30 October 2073
Waratah Coal Mine and Rail project (EPBC 2009/4737)	19 December 2013	31 December 2073