

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

Question No: 59
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 5
Programme: Environment Assessment and Compliance Division
Topic: Stradbroke Island Enterprise Mine
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 7 March 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

1. There are allegations from the community dating from September 2012 that the existing Enterprise Mine has been operating without EPBC approval and therefore illegally since 2004. What is the status of the investigation into those allegations?
2. Why is the investigation taking so long?
3. Has the Minister instructed this investigation to be prioritised? Or that other work be prioritised above it?
4. To the best of your knowledge, has the issue of the company's links (including election campaign expenditure) to Premier Newman ever been mentioned by the Minister or his office either verbally or in writing to any member of the Department?

Answer:

1. The operation of the Enterprise Mine on North Stradbroke Island is being examined by the Department. In particular, compliance officers are examining;
 - a. in the absence of an approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, does the current operation constitute a contravention of national law; and
 - b. if the proposed expansion of the mine (post 2019) will require referral under national environmental law.

The enquiries being made by departmental compliance officers, once complete, will inform whether or not a contravention of national environmental law has, will or is likely to occur.

2. The Department endeavours to complete all investigations in a timely fashion and all enquiries are being undertaken in accordance with the Department's Compliance and Enforcement Policies.
3. No.
4. No.