

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

Question No: 62
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 5
Programme: Environment Assessment and Compliance Division
Topic: Maules Creek - notification of further MNES
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 7 March 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

1. To the best of the Department's understanding, has Whitehaven Coal notified the Department of the existence of *Tylophora Linearis*, the Pale-Headed Snake, the Large-Eared Pied Bat or other newly recorded matters of national environmental significance within 14 days of these being recorded in accordance with section 32 of their conditions?
2. Has the Department received any reports from members of the community or through the ATLAS about records of these species in the Leard State Forest? Please provide details of when, and an overview of what information has been received by the Department.
3. What action is the Department intending to take on these reports in accordance with condition 32 of the EPBC approval?

Answer:

1. Whitehaven Coal has notified the Department of the existence of *Tylophora linearis*. The Department has not been notified by Whitehaven Coal of the existence of the Pale-headed Snake (*Holocephalus bitorquatus*), the Long-Eared Pied Bat (*Chalinobus dwyeri*) or any other newly recorded matters of national environmental significance.
2. The Department received a community report in October 2013 of six *Tylophora linearis* specimens being found in the Leard State Forest. In February 2014, the Department received another report stating that eight *Tylophora linearis* had been recorded within the Leard State Forest and that two Large-Eared Pied Bat's had been recorded, both within and adjacent to Leard State Forest.
3. The Department is continuing to discuss the compliance requirements for EPBC approval 2010/5566 with the approval holder to ensure they are acting in accordance with the approval.