

Environment and Communications References
Answers to questions on notice
Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Portfolio

Inquiry: Australia's extinction crisis

Question No: IQ24-000069

Hearing Date: 17 April 2024

Division/Agency: Nature Positive Taskforce

Topic: Advice to government on time frames for the Nature Positive Plan and associated reforms

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Question Date: 17 April 2024

Question Type: Spoken

Senator David Pockock asked:

Senator DAVID POCOCK: On notice, please, could you provide any advice given to government in relation to time frames for the Nature Positive Plan and associated reforms. At the time that advice was given, I presume you, being the responsible department, were aware that this reform would be complex. Is that correct?

Mr Knudson: That is correct.

Answer:

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water provided the Minister and Government with a wide range of advisory material throughout the development of the Nature Positive Plan. Many of these documents incorporated material that reflected the scale and complexity of the reforms being proposed in the Plan, and the anticipated steps required to implement these reforms.

Since the release of the Nature Positive Plan, the department has continued to advise the Minister on the timing and progress of various elements of the reform process as it has been implemented, including: consultations on draft National Environment Standards; the stakeholder consultation sessions; three public webinars with an associated 'have your say' facility (that remains open - accepting public feedback); drafting of components of the legislation including for Environment Protection Australia (EPA) and Environment Information Australia (EIA); and the 'standing up' of EPA as a separate statutory authority.