

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

**Question No:** 302  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Programme:** Environment Standards Division (ESD)  
**Topic:** Ord River Ramsar wetlands stage 3 assessment  
**Hansard Page:** 44  
**Question Date:** 04 March 2016  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

**Mr Knudson:** I will just add quickly that, when Ord River stage 3 goes through the environmental assessment process, the results will all be in the public domain. If the Ramsar wetland is one of the triggers for the assessment then that will be included in the assessment by the proponents and the information will all be in the public domain, including the likely impacts and what sort of mitigation efforts are being proposed if there are any negative impacts on the wetlands. All of that will be in the public domain.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD:** Perhaps this is not your area, but do you know where the environmental assessment of stage 3 is at?

**Mr Knudson:** The people from that area were here before. I do not know the specifics, but we can certainly come back to you on that.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD:** You can take it on notice?

**Mr Knudson:** Absolutely.

**Answer:**

The Ord River Stage 3 development is yet to be referred to the Minister for the Environment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Therefore assessment of this project has not commenced under national environmental law.