

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

Question No: 45
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Environment Standards Division (ESD)
Topic: Badgery Creek and Western Sydney Airport - EIS internal advice
Hansard Page: 131
Question Date: 08 February 2016
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Cameron asked:

Senator CAMERON: You are obviously aware that part of the area affected by this proposal is the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage area.

Mr Tregurtha: Yes, we are. When the draft EIS was considered by the department, officials from our World Heritage area gave advice to us in forming a view that the EIS was appropriate to publish.

Senator CAMERON: Can you provide details of that internal advice?

Mr Tregurtha: I would have to take that on notice. The officials who were consulted were from outcome 1.4, which has already appeared today. But I can take that on notice.

Answer:

Prior to publication of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the Heritage Branch of the Department of the Environment provided comments to the Environment Standards Division on the draft EIS. This internal review focused on the adequacy of the information in the draft EIS against the EIS guidelines. The review included information on the World Heritage values and National Heritage values of the Greater Blue Mountains Area.

An internal assessment on the merits of the action is ongoing and will form part of the Minister's review of the final EIS.