

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

**Question No:** 60  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Programme:** Environment Standards Division (ESD)  
**Topic:** Update on Acland Stage 3 expansion  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 24 February 2016  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Waters asked:**

In February, the deadline for an EPBC decision about the expansion of the New Acland coal mine on the Darling Downs was extended to 30 April. Since then, no update about the status of the project has been made on the EPBC public register. Can you please provide an update of the Commonwealth's assessment and decision making on this mine, which would have profound consequences for farming communities in the area and their water resources?

**Answer:**

On 5 March 2015, the Queensland Minister for State Development, Natural Resources and Mines advised that a review of the project's impacts would be undertaken.

The time frame for a decision on the approval of the project was stopped pending the completion of the review and provision of any findings to the Department.