

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

Question No: 95
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 4
Programme: Office of Water Science
Topic: INDEPENDENT EXPERT SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 17 June 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

In relation to the IESC's advice on the Carmichael coal mine, have members of the IESC communicated with the secretariat in relation to the "peer review" of IESC's advice conducted by Dr Noel Merrick.

To your knowledge, was the IESC contacted by Adani, the Queensland government or Dr Merrick regarding Dr Merrick's "peer review"?

Answer:

The Office of Water Science as the secretariat to the Independent Expert Scientific Committee (IESC), provided to the IESC a copy of the "*Review of the Carmichael Coal Mine and Rail Project Water Hydrogeology Report*" completed by Dr Noel Merrick of Hydro Simulations. In response, at its May 2014 meeting the IESC reviewed the advice on the Carmichael Coal Mine and Rail Project that it prepared for the Australian and Queensland governments, the outcome of which is recorded in the minutes published on the IESC's website (iesc.environment.gov.au/committee/activities.html).

The Department is not aware that the IESC was contacted by Adani, the Queensland Government or Dr Merrick regarding the *Review of the Carmichael Coal Mine and Rail Project Water Hydrogeology Report*.