

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 87
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Conditions for export of platypus
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Question Date: 23 May 2017
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Rhiannon asked:

Senator RHIANNON: Perhaps you can take this question on notice. You mentioned the conditions that you are helping Taronga Zoo with with regard to how the platypus will be sent overseas. Can you take on notice what those conditions are, even if it is just the areas in which you are giving them advice on and helping them work it out? Could you provide more information?

Mr Murphy: They are going to prepare a draft of those conditions. They are doing the research and they will submit those conditions to us as a draft, and we will assess them at that time. I do not have any more information than that.

Answer:

Conditions for the overseas transfer of live native animals are developed on an as-needs basis. There are no existing conditions for the overseas transfer of platypus, as the last export of platypus from Australia occurred in 1958. The development of draft conditions is being coordinated by Taronga Zoo in consultation with platypus experts and stakeholders. The conditions will outline the requirements for the selection of export stock, pre-export health checks, transportation and staffing, acclimatisation and receiving institution exhibition, feeding and staffing.

Conditions for overseas transfer have been developed and approved for other Australian native animals such as koalas, wombats and macropods. These are available on the Department's website at <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-trade/publications/conditions-overseas-transfer-australian-native-animals>.