

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

Question No: 121
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Environment Assessment and Compliance Division
Topic: MAULES CREEK COAL MINE - ENDANGERED PLANT
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

I understand that the endangered plant *Tylophora linearis* was identified in the Maules Creek mine area by a consultant working for the Maules Creek Community Council, that area has since been destroyed in the clearing of the forest without consideration of offset or assessment of the impact. Has the Department given any advice on that matter?

Answer:

Targeted surveys for *Tylophora linearis* were undertaken by the approval holder within the Leard State Forest, Leard State Conservation Area, the Maules Creek Project Surface Development Extent and Maules Creek offset properties. Consideration of the results of these surveys led to the Department determining that the proposed action is likely to have a significant impact on *Tylophora linearis*.

The Department has requested the approval holder to revise the Offset Management Plan to include details of the results of subsequent *Tylophora linearis* surveys, proposed management, monitoring and reporting actions and any compensatory measures that are adopted to ensure the protection of the species.

In addition, the Mine Site Rehabilitation Plan, as required by conditions 25 to 28 of the Offset Management Plan, must provide details of proposed rehabilitation and revegetation measures, targets and performance indicators that must be achieved.

In accordance with condition 18 of the EPBC Act approval, the Department will conduct a review of the Offset Management Plan when the offsetting arrangements have been revised.

The Department will continue to discuss compliance requirements for EPBC approval 2010/5566 with the approval holder to ensure they are acting in accordance with the approval.