

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

**Question No:** 414  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Agency  
**Programme:** National Water Commission  
**Topic:** WATER AND MINING PROJECTS  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 29 October 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Xenophon asked:**

Has the National Water Commission conducted any research or reviews on the wider impact of the use of water in mining projects on the environment? Has any research been done with regards to impacts on groundwater, particularly is contaminated water is reinjected back into the ground?

**Answer:**

Under the Raising National Water Standards program the Commission initiated a number of studies into water and mining and which are available in our on-line library <http://archive.nwc.gov.au/library>. They include "Framework for assessing potential local and cumulative effects of mining on groundwater resources, Waterlines report No 59 - October 2011" and "Integrating the mining sector into water planning and entitlements regimes, Waterlines report No 77 - March 2012". The Commission has not undertaken studies specifically into the effects of the reinjection of mine water.