

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

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 113
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Environment Standards Division (ESD)
Topic: Adani Coal Mine
Hansard Page: 129
Question Date: 24 October 2016
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters, Larissa asked:

Senator WATERS: Thank you. That is the end of those Roe 8 questions.

I have some questions now about the Adani project and a few other projects in Queensland. I have noticed this week that there have been some advertisements for new jobs happening at the Adani site, which is obviously a new development given that they sacked everyone about a year ago. Has Adani commenced any on-ground work under their EPBC approval for the mine and/or the railway projects?

Mr Cahill: Not to my knowledge. They have a range of conditions that they must address before they commence operation or any construction activity.

Mr Knudson: I would just add that it is not unusual for a proponent to undertake some precommencement work, doing the preparation for the actual operation, so that might be going on. If there is any further clarification, we can definitely come back on notice on that. But, as I said, that is not unusual.

Senator WATERS: Okay, so they might have done some—what did you call it? Sorry.

Mr Knudson: Precommencement work.

Senator WATERS: Would that normally be something that they would need to notify you of?

Mr Knudson: Again, it depends. The thing that we are most concerned about is whether that work would have a significant impact. The way the conditions are built, we would have anything that was likely to have a significant impact covered off in the conditions. So, by definition, anything they would be doing beforehand would not be of a significant impact. But, as I said, we are happy to come back on notice on that.

Senator WATERS: Yes, if you could. I am struggling to recall the detail of the approval, but I am sure those various conditions that were required to be completed include the usual groundwater plans and this and that plan.

Mr Knudson: That is right.

Senator WATERS: So could you come back to me with an update on where all of those plans are at and what has been submitted to date.

Mr Knudson: Sure.

Answer:

The Carmichael Coal Mine and Rail Project and the North Galilee Rail project have not commenced. Pre-commencement activities being undertaken comprise monitoring to meet approval condition requirements.

Plans required for Carmichael Mine and Rail Infrastructure Project (EPBC 2010/5736)

Plan required under EPBC approval 2010/5736	Current status	Required before commencement?
Groundwater Management and Monitoring Plan	Awaiting submission	No. Must be approved before first 'box cut' after overburden removal
Matters of National Environmental Significance Management Plan. Adani has separated as:		
• Species Management Plan – Carmichael Coal Mine and Offsite Infrastructure	Approved July 2016	Yes
• Species Management Plan – Carmichael Rail Network SP1	Approved July 2016	Yes
• Black-throated Finch Management Plan;	Awaiting submission	Yes
• Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Management Plan	Awaiting submission	Yes
Biodiversity Offset Strategy	Approved October 2016	Yes
Great Artesian Basin Offset Strategy	Approved August 2016	Yes
Offset Area Management Plan/s	Awaiting submission	No
Biodiversity Funding - Terms of reference, funding mechanisms & initial work plan	Awaiting submission	Yes.
Biodiversity funding – provide notice of establishment of a pool of funds	Awaiting submission	Yes
3D Seismic Survey Management Plan	Awaiting submission	No Seismic survey activities must not commence until 3D Seismic Survey Plan is approved
Peer review of the adequacy of the current groundwater flow model	Approved	Yes (Was required within one month of project approval)
Report on re-run of groundwater flow model	Approved	No
Great Artesian Basin Springs Research Plan	Awaiting submission	No Must be approved before first 'box cut' after overburden removal
Rewan Formation Connectivity Research Plan	Awaiting submission	No Must be approved before first 'box cut' after overburden removal

**Plans required for North Galilee Basin Rail Project, Abbot Point to Galilee Basin
(EPBC 2013/6885)**

Plan or Authority	Current status	Required before commencement?
Matters of National Environmental Significance management plan/s: Adani has titled <i>Species Management Plan Carmichael Rail Network – NGBR</i>	Approved July 2016	Yes
Biodiversity Offset Strategy	Awaiting submission	Yes
Offset Area Management Plans	Awaiting submission	No