

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

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 55
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Giant Freshwater Lobster – Recovery Plan Consultation
Hansard Page: 124
Question Date: 24 October 2016
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Rice, Janet asked:

Senator RICE: Finally, I want to move on to the giant freshwater lobster for which, as I understand it, the revised recovery plan has just been out for consultation. In reply to one of my questions on notice from the February estimates it was indicated that there were a number of regional reserves or conservation areas in the catchment that encompass areas within the range of the giant freshwater lobster. Are these reserves part of the recovery plan for the lobster or are they just coincidental with the populations?

Mr Richardson: I apologise. I am going to have to take that on notice. I have not got that in front of me, and I do not know the answer to that question.

Answer:

At least twelve of the catchments/sub-catchments in which the giant freshwater crayfish is known or likely to occur encompass major areas of land which are protected under a variety of measures, including regional reserves, national parks, conservation areas and nature recreation areas. All of these areas have been previously declared as protected areas under the Tasmanian Nature Conservation Act. The department understands these reserves have been formed to protect a number of different assets, such as biodiversity values, natural or cultural heritage, and rare or endangered species of plants and animals.

All catchments in which the giant freshwater crayfish is known or likely to occur, and the major land tenures and conservation zones that occur within these catchments, are identified within the draft recovery plan for the species. In addition to the current areas of crayfish habitat incorporated into the Tasmanian reserve network, a key strategy in the draft recovery plan for the species is to '*Increase the reservation status and improve the quality of key habitat for the giant freshwater crayfish*'. This strategy will be supported through exploring opportunities to incorporate key locations for giant freshwater crayfish, or portions thereof, into public or private reserve systems.