

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

Question No: 198

Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates

Outcome: Corporate

Programme: Policy and Communications Division

Topic: Portfolio Wide – Freedom of Information

Hansard Page: N/A

Question Date: 27 November 2013

Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

How many officers are currently designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the Department?

a) How does this differ to the number of officers designated as at 6 September 2013?

Answer:

The Department has a 'decentralised' model for the processing of requests received in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*. This model does not designate particular officers per se; the delegate is determined based on the subject matter of each Freedom of Information request received.

An SES officer from the branch responsible for the subject matter of the request is nominated as the delegate by the relevant First Assistant Secretary.

Clean Energy Regulator

Currently, there are a total of 13 persons who may make a decision under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (being the Chair and 12 persons performing the duties of a Senior Executive Service Band 1 or 2 in the Clean Energy Regulator who are authorised in writing by the Chair to make a decision under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*).

There has been no change to the number of authorised decision-makers between 6 September 2013 and 31 October 2013.

Climate Change Authority

There is currently one designated decision maker under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* within the Authority.

a) No change

Bureau of Meteorology

Nine

- a) The same number

National Water Commission

The Commission currently has four designated decision makers under the FOI Act: Chief Executive Officer, 2 x Senior Executive Band 1 and 1 x Executive Level 2.

- a) There has been no change to the number of decision makers as at 9 September 2013.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Seven.

- a) No difference, the numbers are the same.

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust

The Trust has a 'decentralised' model for the processing of requests received in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*. This model does not designate particular officers per se; the delegate is determined based on the subject matter of each Freedom of Information request received.

An SES (equivalent) officer from the branch responsible for the subject matter of the request is nominated as the delegate by the Executive Director.