

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

**Question No:** 203

**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates

**Outcome:** Corporate

**Programme:** Policy and Communications Division

**Topic:** Charter Letters

**Hansard Page:** N/A

**Question Date:** 27 November 2013

**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

Has the Minister received a charter letter from the Prime Minister or is it expected that a charter letter will be received by the Minister.

- a) Can you detail the division of responsibilities between the Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary.
- b) Are those arrangements finalised or could they change on receipt of a charter letter from the Prime Minister.
- c) Where are these arrangements recorded.

**Answer:**

Yes

- a) The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment, Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, has responsibility for terrestrial water policy and programmes, including the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder, Murray-Darling Basin Authority and National Water Commission. The Parliamentary Secretary also oversees the Director of National Parks in relation to terrestrial parks, the Supervising Scientist, the Bureau of Meteorology and the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.
- b) These arrangements have been finalised.
- c) These arrangements are recorded in correspondence between the Minister and the Prime Minister, and correspondence between the Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary.