

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2013-14
3 and 4 June 2013

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, CLIMATE CHANGE, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Briefings or costings for the Australian Greens and Independents

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Bushby

QUESTION No.: BI-147

1. Have any briefings and/or provision of information been provided to the Australian Greens? If yes, please include:
 - How are briefings requests commissioned?
 - What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.
 - Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.
 - Have any briefing requests been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why they could not proceed.
 - How long is spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information requests for the Australian Greens? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.
2. Have any briefings and/or provision of information been provided to Independents? If yes, please include:
 - How are briefings requests commissioned?
 - What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.
 - Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.
 - Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why they could not proceed.
 - How long is spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information requests for the Independents? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.

ANSWER

Please refer to AI-149 for details on briefings or costings for the Australian Greens and Independents for the period 1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013. Details on briefings or costings for the Australian Greens and Independents for the period 1 February 2013 to 31 May 2013 is below.

Political Party	Who requested the briefing	How briefing was requested	Nature of brief	How brief was delivered	Unable to proceed	Hours spent preparing brief
Australian Greens	Senator Scott Ludlam	To the Australian Building Code Boards (ABCB) directly	The purpose of the meeting was to provide briefing on the Building Code of Australia, particularly in relation to the barriers existing buildings and heritage buildings face in complying with the building code.	Verbally	No	1 x SES – 1 hour* 1 x EL2 – 1 hour*
Independent	Mr Tony Windsor MP	To AusIndustry directly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information on the Clean Technology Food and Foundries Investment Program (18 April 2013) - Information on the Clean Technology Investment Program and Clean Technology Food and Foundries Investment Program (30 April 2013) - Information on the Clean Technology Food and Foundries Investment Program (21 May 2013) 	Verbally	No	1 x EL1 – 6 hours
Independent	Mr Tony Windsor MP and Mr Rob Oakeshott MP	Via the office of the previous Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Science and Research	The briefing outlined the announced changes to higher education funding, including the introduction of an efficiency dividend, the removal of the HECS-HELP upfront discount and voluntary HELP repayment bonus, and the conversion of Student Start-up scholarships to income contingent loans.	Verbally (Attachments A and B were provided to Mr Windsor in response to a request made at the verbal briefing)	No	1 x SES – 2.5 hours** 1 x EL2 – 0.5 hours** 1 x EL1 – 1.5 hours**

*Due to verbal briefing being provided, minimal preparation was required. This represents length of the meeting.

**This is an estimate of the time spent preparing and providing the briefing

COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION (CSIRO)

CSIRO regularly provides information on its research to all Members of the Parliament, including the Greens and Independents. CSIRO assists members of the Parliament to access scientific information and knowledge on request, as it does with such requests from all members of the Australian public. CSIRO does not provide information to the Greens or Independents that is not available to other Members of Parliament.

CLEAN ENERGY REGULATOR (CER)

The CER's details on briefings or costings for the Australian Greens and Independents for the period 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2013 are provided in Question No. 141 provided to the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee from the 2012-13 Additional Estimates. Details on briefings or costings for the Australian Greens and Independents for the period 1 March 2013 to 31 May 2013 are below.

The CER responds to requests for information from the Australian Greens and Independents at the request of the Minister, as it does for any other members of Parliament. Briefings would generally be provided orally on a range of issues. Any briefings provided are incorporated into the general work of the relevant areas of the CER and not separately identified.

CLIMATE CHANGE AUTHORITY (CCA)

The CCA's details on briefings or costings for the Australian Greens and Independents for the period 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2013 are provided in Question No. 182 provided to the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee from the 2012-13 Additional Estimates. Details on briefings or costings for the Australian Greens and Independents for the period 1 March 2013 to 31 May 2013 are below.

The CCA has not provided briefing or completed information requests for the Australian Greens or Independents.