

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

**Question No:** 56  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Programme:** Environment Standards Division (ESD)  
**Topic:** QLD Land Clearing - Meetings with Queensland Government  
**Hansard Page:** 137  
**Question Date:** 08 February 2016  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator O'Sullivan asked:**

**Senator O'SULLIVAN:** Have any of the witnesses at the table, the minister aside, been present at or held any discussions with the Queensland government or any other party in relation to the circumstances that led to this letter?

**Mr Gaddes:** I have, Senator.

**Senator O'SULLIVAN:** You have? Can you tell me where, when and who was present?

**Mr Gaddes:** It would have been in June. I would have to take the specifics on notice because I do not have my diary with me. I met with officials in the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and I also met with officials in the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. Those discussions were primarily about the Olive Vale clearing matter. That was probably the largest catalyst for a lot of the correspondence that you have in the pack that you asked for.

**Answer:**

The Assistant Secretary of the Compliance and Enforcement Branch, and a subordinate officer, met with officials from the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and separately with officials from the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines in Brisbane on 18 May 2015.

On 9 June 2015, the Assistant Secretary of the Compliance and Enforcement Branch, and a subordinate officer, had discussions by telephone with officials from the Queensland Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines.