

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

Question No: 245
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Policy and Communications Division
Topic: Portfolio wide – Freedom of Information - consultation
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 26 May 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Other than for the purpose of discussing a transfer under section 16 of the Act, does the Department consult or inform other Departments or Agencies when it receives Freedom of Information requests for the period 24 February 2014 to 26 May 2014? If so, for each instance provide a table setting out the following information:

- a) The Department or Agency which was consulted;
- b) The document;
- c) The purpose of the consultation;
- d) Whether an extension of time was sought from the applicant to allow time for the consultation, including whether it was granted and the length of the extension; and
- e) Whether an extension of time was sought from the Information Commissioner to allow time for the consultation, including whether it was granted and the length of the extension

Answer:

The Clean Energy Regulator, Bureau of Meteorology, National Water Commission, Murray Darling Basin Authority, Sydney Harbour Federation Trust and Climate Change Authority did not consult or inform any other Department or Agency about an FOI request between 24 February 2014 and 26 May 2014.

The following tables outline the responses from the Department and other Portfolio Agencies in the relevant period (this does not include the Minister's office – see response to Question 246 for that information).

Department of the Environment				
Department or Agency consulted	The document	The purpose of the consultation	Extension of time sought from applicant	Extension of time sought from the Information Commissioner
Department of the Prime Minister & Cabinet	Documents received from the Prime Minister and Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.	Courtesy consultation on the release of documents to which the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet was a party.	No	No

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority				
Department or Agency which was consulted	The document	The purpose of the consultation	Extension of time sought from applicant	Extension of time sought from the Information Commissioner
Department of the Environment	FOI 137/13 15 documents	Courtesy consultation pursuant to FOI Guidelines. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority consults on documents where it is apparent that the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority did not create the document or that another Department or Agency may have an interest in the subject matter or may have previously released the document under FOI.	No	No
Department of the Environment	FOI 144/14 30 documents		No	No
Department of the Environment	FOI 142/14		No	No

Environment	39 documents			
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