

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

Question No: 336
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: General Counsel
Topic: PORTFOLIO WIDE - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION -
CONSULTATION WITH MINISTERS OFFICE
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

The following question relate to requests made pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (the Act):

1. Other than for the purposes of discussing a transfer under section 16 of the Act, has the Department consulted or informed the Minister's office about Freedom of Information requests it has received?
2. If yes, provide a table setting out the following information:
 - a. The requests with respect to which the Minister or Ministerial office was consulted;
 - b. The Minister or Ministerial office which was consulted;
 - 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;
 - 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
 - f. Whether any briefings (including formal briefs, email briefings and verbal briefings) were provided to the Minister's office

Answer:

The National Water Commission, Clean Energy Regulator, Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Climate Change Authority did not receive any FOI requests that required consultation with the Minister's office.

Department of the Environment (including the Director of National Parks)

1. Yes
2. See table below:

FOI	Minister	Purpose	EOT	IC Ext	Brief
Documents relating to email accounts of the Minister and his Chief of Staff.	Minister Hunt	Advise the Minister's Office the FOI was received and may involve the Minister's Office.	No	No	No
Documents relating to a letter from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority dated 29 May 2014.	Minister Hunt	Check for documents at Minister's Office that fall within FOI scope.	No	No	No

Documents relating to the EPBC Act water trigger.	Minister Hunt	Advised the Minister's Office the FOI was received and may involve the Minister's Office.	No	No	No
FOI	Minister	Purpose	EOT	IC Ext	Brief
Documents relating to the April 2013 Comcare audit of the Department's safety management system.	Minister Hunt	Check for documents at Minister's Office that fall within FOI scope.	No	No	No
Documents relating to the illegal taking of Dugong and Turtles.	Minister Hunt	Check for documents at Minister's Office that fall within FOI scope.	No	No	No
Documents relating to plans to ban the importation of hunting trophies.	Minister Hunt	Check for documents at Minister's Office that fall within FOI scope.	No	No	No
Documents relating to the Leadbeater's Possum.	Minister Hunt	Check for documents at Minister's Office that fall within FOI scope.	No	No	No
Documents relating to the Register of Environmental Organisations.	Minister Hunt	Check for documents at Minister's Office that fall within FOI scope.	No	No	No
Documents relating to EPBC Act referral 2011/6213.	Minister Hunt	Check for documents at Minister's Office that fall within FOI scope.	No	No	No
Documents relating to the Regional Forest Agreements.	Minister Hunt	Advised the Minister's Office that the FOI was received by the Department and may potentially involve the Minister's Office.	No	No	No
Documents relating to the World Heritage listing of Cape York.	Minister Hunt	Courtesy consultation on Minister's Office document.	No	No	No

Bureau of Meteorology

Yes.

See table below:

FOI	Minister	Purpose	EOT	IC Ext	Brief
Documents relating to advice on climate change since 7 September 2013.	Senator Birmingham	In accordance with standard FOI practice, courtesy consultation occurred, in order for the decision maker to properly consider whether exemptions apply.	No.	No.	No.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

1. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) completes a 6 weekly sequencing plan each week in which the Minister's Office is informed of the progress of Freedom of Information Requests and the arrival of new requests by the GBRMPA.