

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

Question No: 337
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: General Counsel
Topic: PORTFOLIO WIDE - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION -
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS
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):

Consultations with other Departments, Agencies and the Minister

1. 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?
2. 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;
 - 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 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 other Departments, Agencies or the Minister.

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

1. Yes
2. See table below.

Department	Document	Purpose	EOT	IC EOT
Clean Energy Regulator	Meeting documents	Courtesy consultation	No	No
Comcare	Comcare Audit report 2013 Comcare premium letters 2014 and 2013	Courtesy consultation	No	No
CSIRO	Third party notification	Courtesy consultation	No	No

Department	Document	Purpose	EOT	IC EOT
Attorney-General's	n/a	Attorney-General's advised on possible data security issues in providing the requested information.	No	No
Parliamentary Library	Client advice	Courtesy consultation	No	No
Industry	Letter from Department of Industry	Courtesy Consultation	No	No
Prime Minister & Cabinet	Cabinet documents	Consultation in accordance with Information Commissioner Guidelines	No	No
Defence	Three Defence documents	Courtesy consultation	No	No
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Minutes of meetings and email chains	Courtesy consultation	No	No
Prime Minister & Cabinet	Cabinet documents	Consultation in accordance with Information Commissioner Guidelines	No	No
Agriculture	Senator Colbeck letters to States	Courtesy consultation	No	No

Bureau of Meteorology

1. Yes.
2. See table below.

Department	Document	Purpose	EOT	IC EOT
Australian Transport Safety Bureau	Aviation Meteorological Information Report	Courtesy consultation	No	No
Department of the Environment	Joint Ministerial Brief	Courtesy consultation	No	No

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

1. Yes.
2. See table below.

Department	Document	Purpose	EOT	IC EOT
Dept of the Environment	42 documents	Courtesy consultation.	No	No
Dept of the Environment	30 documents	Courtesy consultation.	No	No
Dept of the Environment	6 documents	Courtesy consultation.	No	No
Australian Maritime Safety Authority	16 documents	Courtesy consultation.	No	No
Dept of the Environment	10 documents	Courtesy consultation.	No	No
Dept of the Environment	2 documents	Courtesy Consultation.	No	No