

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

Question No: 342
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: General Counsel
Topic: PORTFOLIO WIDE - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - STAFFING RESOURCES
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

For the period of time from 18 September 2013, what was the average FTE is allocated to processing FOI requests?

Answer:

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

1.3 FTE staff are allocated to coordinate the Department's FOI requests.

Processing of requests occurs in the relevant Departmental area, and the number of officers assigned to process FOI requests depends on the nature of the work involved in processing any particular request. The last report to the Information Commissioner indicated 4,920 hours was spent on processing FOI requests by Departmental officers for the year ending 30 June 2014.

National Water Commission

No FOI requests were received during the period. The Commission does not have a dedicated FOI team because of its small size. As FOI requests are received staff are assigned on a case-by-case basis to assist with researching and responding to the request.

Clean Energy Regulator

No officer is assigned directly (or solely) to FOI requests.

The number of officers assigned to process FOI requests (and the time spent by those officers undertaking that task) depends on the number of requests on hand on the particular date and the nature of the work involved in processing any particular request.

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust

1 FTE is allocated to coordinate the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust FOI requests.

Murray-Darling Basin Authority

An average of 0.026 FTE is allocated to coordinate the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's FOI requests.

Climate Change Authority (CCA)

10 hours was allocated to coordinate the Climate Change Authority FOI requests.

Bureau of Meteorology

0.7 FTE is allocated to coordinate the Bureau of Meteorology FOI requests.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

1 FTE is allocated to coordinate the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority FOI requests.