

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
Answers to questions on notice
Agriculture, Water and the Environment Portfolio

Hearing: Public Hearing - Inquiry into the Water Legislation Amendment (Inspector-General of Water Compliance and Other Measures) Act 2021 - 18 November 2021

Outcome: Agency

Division/Agency: Inspector-General of Water Compliance AG6

Topic: Meeting with Water Minister or his office

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Question Date: 18 November 2021

Question Type: Spoken

asked:

Senator CICCONE: I assume staff from the office of compliance meet with the minister or the department.

Mr Grant: It would be myself, Mr Blacker or Ms Leopold. I could check my diary and get back to you.

Senator CICCONE: You may be able to take this on notice, too. How regularly do the officers report back, and what information is reported back to you?

Mr Grant: Sorry, could you help me understand that question.

Senator CICCONE: How often are officers reporting back to you and others in your team after they've had these meetings? I assume you get a meeting and then—

Answer:

As Interim Inspector-General of Water Compliance, Mr Grant met with Minister Pitt on three occasions, twice in February 2021 and once in June 2021.

The Inspector-General and his staff, have not met with the Minister's office post 05 August 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions. Communication with the Minister's office has been ad-hoc on an as-needs basis regarding administrative matters. Contact has been via email or phone.

The Office of the Inspector-General of Water Compliance meets with employees of the Department of Agriculture, Water & Environment on a wide range of matters, as we do with all other relevant government agencies.

Structured reporting arrangements are being developed as part of establishing the Office of the Inspector-General of Water Compliance.