

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

**Question No:** 163  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Corporate  
**Programme:** Policy and Communications Division  
**Topic:** Portfolio wide – Briefings for other parties  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 7 March 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

Have any briefings and/or provision of information been provided to Non-Government parties other than the Australian Labor Party? If yes, please include:

- a) How are briefings requests commissioned?
- b) What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.
- c) Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.
- d) Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why it could not proceed.
- e) How long is spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information requests for the Independents? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.
- f) Which Non-Government Parties or Independents, excluding the Australian Labor Party have requested briefings and/or information?

**Answer:**

**Department of the Environment**

- a) The Department of the Environment responds to requests for information from Non-Government parties at the request of the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary, as it does for any other member of Parliament.
- b) Verbal briefing provided to Senator Xenophon on the Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program in South Australia on 4 December 2013.
- c) No written information was provided at the 4 December 2013 briefing.
- d) No.
- e) Preparation for any briefing is incorporated into the general work of the relevant area of the Department and is not separately identified. The 4 December 2013 briefing lasted for 30 minutes and was attended by one SES Band 2 officer.
- f) Independent: Senator Xenophon

**Portfolio Agencies**

The following Portfolio Agencies provided a 'nil' response for all questions listed above:

Bureau of Meteorology; Clean Energy Regulator; Climate Change Authority; Director of National Parks; Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority; Murray-Darling Basin Authority; National Water Commission and Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.