

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

Question No: 179
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Policy and Communications Division
Topic: Portfolio wide - Freedom of Information requests
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 04 March 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Since 7 September 2013, how many Freedom of Information requests been shown or alerted to the Minister or their office?

- a) List those notified request
- b) How many instances were each of this requests brought to the office or the Minister's attention?
- c) How many of these items resulted in a separate formal brief being provided to the Minister?
- d) How many of these items resulted in a separate informal briefing (including by email) being provided to the Minister?
- e) How many requests have resulted in multiple formal briefs being provided to the Minister or their office?
- f) How many requests have resulted in multiple informal briefs (including by email) being provided to the Minister or their office?

Answer:

Department of the Environment (Includes Director of National Parks)

Since 7 September 2013, the Minister's office has been advised of four Freedom of Information (FOI) requests. The FOI Coordination Team branch head informs the Minister's Chief of Staff (by email) of a request that may relate to information held by the Minister, as it may be necessary to transfer the request to the Minister in part or in full and/or consult the Minister on release of information that relates to official documents of the Minister (in accordance with the requirements of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and Guidelines issued by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner).

- a) FOI requests:
 - 010214 – Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area
 - 010314 – Shenhua Watermark Coal Project
 - 021113 – Fitzroy Terminal Project
 - 070214 – WA shark mitigation measures
- b) The Department does not centrally record each contact with the Minister's office in relation to FOI requests.
- c – f) Nil

Bureau of Meteorology

The Bureau of Meteorology informs the Parliamentary Secretary's Office of the number of FOI requests being processed. Five FOI requests have been received since 7 September 2013.

- a) 30/5741: Request for information about unsuccessful job application – 30/5317 P3M3 assessment; 30/5692 Weather Conditions report for St Kilda; 30/5727 – Weather Conditions report for Dandenong; 30/5692 – Weather Conditions Report for Arcadia.
- b) The Bureau notified the Parliamentary Secretary's office of all of the above requests.
- c) Nil
- d) Nil
- e) Nil
- f) Nil

Clean Energy Regulator

For the period 7 September 2013 to 28 February 2014, no Freedom of Information requests have been shown or alerted to the Minister or his office by the Clean Energy Regulator.

Climate Change Authority

Nil

- a) Not applicable
- b) Not applicable
- c) Not applicable
- d) Not applicable
- e) Not applicable
- f) Not applicable

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

The Authority has not received a FOI requests during the period 7 September 2013 to 31 January 2014.

Murray-Darling Basin Authority

Since 7 September 2013, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority has alerted the Minister's and Parliamentary Secretary's offices to three Freedom of Information requests.

- a) FOI Application No 58 – Wamba Wamba Barapa Barapa and Wadi Wadi Governance Funds; FOI Application No 59 – Access to personal information; FOI Application 60 – Koondrook-Perricoota Forest Flood Enhancement Works.
- b) Twice
- c) None
- d) None
- e) None
- f) None

National Water Commission

The Commission has not received a FOI requests during the period 7 September 2013 to 31 January 2014.

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust

The Trust has not received a FOI requests during the period 7 September 2013 to 31 January 2014.