

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION —
COST RECOVERY DISCUSSION PAPER

756. Hon COLIN TINCKNELL to the minister representing the Minister for Water:

I refer to the “Discussion Paper on cost recovery for the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation: Supporting the delivery of improved environmental and water regulation”.

- (1) Will the proposed water licence fees extend to private agricultural entities?
- (2) If yes to (1) —
 - (a) can the minister confirm that the proposed water licence fee to be charged to private agriculture entities will be the same amount as that quoted under table 5 and that water licence and permit fee structures will apply only to mining and public water supply scheme sectors; and
 - (b) if not, how much will be charged?
- (3) Given the Labor government’s promise during the 2017 election campaign that there would be no new fees, charges and taxes on business, does this break the government’s election promise by introducing new fees and charges? ·
- (4) Is the upcoming meeting to be held in consultation with stakeholders a restricted meeting?
- (5) If yes to (4), why is it restricted to certain stakeholders?
- (6) Can the minister provide a list of the stakeholders who will be consulted during the consultation period for the discussion paper?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. The Minister for Water has provided the following information.

- (1) The government will decide whether fees will be introduced to other sectors following the consultation process.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) No decision has been made about the introduction of fees to other sectors.
- (4) No. The consultation workshops are publicly advertised and any interested persons may attend.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) Yes. I table the membership of the Water Resources Reform Reference Group and the Regulatory Services Stakeholder Reference Group. These organisations have agreed to engage their membership on the discussion paper. Also tabled are a list of special interest stakeholders who will be consulted directly.

In addition, the discussion paper is publicly available on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation’s website.

[See paper 1742.]