

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION —  
COST RECOVERY DISCUSSION PAPER

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

I refer to submissions to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation on the discussion paper on cost recovery for the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. In an answer to question without notice 1293 asked on 4 December 2018, the Minister for Water said that the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation would publish the submissions on its website.

- (1) Has the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation published the submissions?
- (2) If yes to (1), can the minister please provide the URL link to the submissions?
- (3) If the submissions have not been published, why not; and can we expect them to be published?
- (4) Is the Minister for Water withholding publishing the submissions so that their content is not available for informed debate on the water licence fees disallowance motion later this week?

**Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:**

I thank the member for the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Water.

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation is still analysing the submissions and finalising its consultation summary report. The submissions will be published when the analysis has been completed.
- (4) No. The disallowance motion is with regard to regulation amendments that introduced a water licence application fee for the mining and public water supply sectors only. The consultation process that the department commenced last year was to investigate the potential for some form of cost recovery for water licence applications in other sectors. No decision has been made to introduce water licence fees in sectors outside the mining and public water supply sectors, and any decision to do so would require a further amendment to the regulations.