## Estimates and Financial Operations Committee 2017-18 Budget Estimates Hearings - Questions Prior to Hear

## Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

## Hon Jacqui Boydell MLC asked:

- - I

1. I refer to Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, Page 221 under the Explanation of Significant Movements and I ask:

The 2016-17 estimated actual income is significantly less that the 2016-17, what caused this reduction in expected levels of revenue?

Answer: The Department experienced reduced revenues from externally funded projects and own source revenues including rental receipts during the 2016-17 financial year. Externally funded projects are subject to fluctuation given the needs of industry and levels of market activity. The Department has reviewed its rental revenue forecast and has identified lower than anticipated ongoing returns.

- 2. I refer to Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, Page 217 under the spending changes and I ask:
  - (a) The line that refers to regional Workers Incentive Allowance Payments decreases by over half in the 2020-21 forward estimates, what has caused this decrease?

Answer: The decrease in the District Allowance has resulted from reduced cost of living expenses being experienced in regional locations. The District Allowance is reviewed annually to reflect changes to the cost of living which increase or decrease the allowance and the attached funding. The District Allowance expense within 2020-21 was not previously included for one of the legacy agencies so the \$20 000 decrease is the net of its inclusion and the ongoing reductions.

(b) If the workers are no longer receiving incentive allowance payments, will they be compensated in another way?

Answer: The District Allowance will continue to be paid. The amount of the allowance is calculated by the Labour Relations Division within the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety using an agreed methodology. The Department is advised on the applicable District Allowance amount to be paid to affected staff during each year.

(c) What impacts does a reduction in this allowance have on the regional workers that currently receive it?

Answer: The District Allowance is calculated to reflect the applicable cost of living expenses within a particular regional locality and can rise or fall depending on the surveyed cost of living changes. Movements within the District Allowance are reflective of the costs incurred by staff who should not otherwise be impacted by its movements.

RECEIVED

1 0 UUT 2017

3. I refer to Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, Page 228 under the Details of Controlled Grants and I ask:

e . 1

The line that refers to the Royalties for Regions - Water WA is only funded till the 2018-19 forward estimates, will it no longer be funded after this time?

Answer: Yes, Watering WA is a fixed term program with funding until 2019-20.

Chr