

DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY AND FINANCE —
APPROVAL OF GOVERNMENT FEES, CHARGES AND FINES

28. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the minister representing the Treasurer:

- (1) Is the Department of Treasury and Finance required to approve all increases by government agencies in fees, charges and fines?
- (2) If no to (1), what does the department approve?
- (3) Does the department keep a record of all fees, charges and fines increased by government agencies?
- (4) If no to (3) —
 - (a) why not; and
 - (b) on what basis does it determine the general government cash flow statement?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for notice of the question.

- (1) No. The Department of Treasury and Finance is not required to approve increases by government agencies in fees, charges or fines.
- (2) The department's role is focused on coordinating and facilitating the application of Treasurer's Instruction 810, which requires agencies to undergo regular—at least annual—reviews of all tariffs, fees and charges. Through the annual budget process, the department requires agencies to highlight any tariffs, fees and charges that are new, are above cost recovery, have increased by an amount greater than the consumer price index to maintain or achieve cost recovery, or impact the representative household budget. These tariffs, fees and charges are reviewed by the department, and recommendations are presented to the Economic and Expenditure Reform Committee for consideration. The EERC recommendations are forwarded to cabinet for approval.
- (3) The Department of Treasury and Finance does not keep a record of fees, charges and fines increased by government agencies.
- (4)
 - (a) In accordance with the requirements of Treasurer's Instruction 810, all agencies are required to review all tariffs, fees and charges at least annually. The volume and range of tariffs, fees and charges precludes this detail from being centrally managed.
 - (b) The general government cash flow statement is the consolidated result of all agency forecasted cash flows. DTF's role is to manage the whole-of-government consolidations. Individual agencies are required to ensure that their own forward estimates are accurate and correct.