

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION —
COST RECOVERY DISCUSSION PAPER

922. Hon KEN BASTON to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the discussion paper on cost recovery for the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. Will the minister commit to not introducing or to significantly increasing charges for native vegetation land clearing and water licences and permits before the next election?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

The government is currently undertaking a 12-week consultation with key stakeholders and the community on the implementation of a proposed cost recovery approach. Views on the proposed fee structures, the level of cost recovery, and the potential impacts to community, businesses, individuals and industry are being sought. Once the consultation process has concluded and the views of stakeholders and the community are known, the government will consider this matter further. Fees for clearing permit applications have not increased since the clearing provisions commenced in 2004, with applicants currently paying a \$50, \$100 or \$200 application fee. Questions related to water licences and permits should be referred to the Minister for Water.