

WATER CORPORATION — CARBON TAX COMPONENT

748. Hon AMBER-JADE SANDERSON to the minister representing the Minister for Water:

I refer to the repeal of the federal carbon tax and guarantees by the state Treasurer that savings would be passed on to consumers in full.

- (1) What was the total additional amount charged by the Water Corporation because of the carbon tax to both householders and business customers in 2013–14 for both water and sewerage services?
- (2) Can the Minister for Water confirm that the Water Corporation is no longer charging its customers the additional carbon tax component, and that the savings will be passed on in full?
- (3) Will these savings be backdated to 1 July, as was the case with Synergy charges; and, if not, why not?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

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

- (1) It was \$12 million.
- (2) The Water Corporation's target implementation date to remove charging for the carbon tax component is 1 November 2014. This is the earliest practicable date, as the relevant government approval processes need to be complied with, including required changes to the pricing regulations; the corporation's billing system also needs to be updated.
- (3) Subject to verification of reductions in the Water Corporation's actual costs as a consequence of the repeal of the act, the corporation is considering the appropriate arrangements for refunding customers for the period 1 July 2014 to 1 November 2014. The average customer refund is estimated to be around \$3 for this period.