



ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

2016-17 ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS – QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARINGS

Department of Water

Hon Jacqui Boydell MLC asked:

- 1) Page 137 lists Department of Water regional offices:
- a) Please provide the total number of employees (and FTE equivalent) working in regional Western Australia and a region-by-region breakdown of employee locations as at 30 June 2017.

Answer:

- i) Total number of employees is 110 and FTE is 98.14.
- ii) Region-by-region breakdown:

Location	Headcount	FTE
ALBANY	12	10.8
BROOME	2	2.9
MANDURAH	19	15.2
CARNARVON	5	5
GERALDTON	15	13.2
KIMBERLEY	17	14.2
BUNBURY	29	26.74
BUSSELTON	9	8.1
MANJIMUP	2	2

- b) Please provide the total number of employees (and FTE equivalent) working in regional Western Australia and a region-by-region breakdown of employee locations as at December 2017.

Answer: The following answers are representative of the post-Machinery of Government agency of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation inclusive of the former Departments of Water and Environment Regulation and the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority.

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i) Total number of employees is 142 and FTE is 121.24.

ii) Region-by-region breakdown:

Location	Headcount	FTE
ALBANY	22	19.48
BROOME	1	1.00
ESPERANCE	1	1.00
KALGOORLIE	1	1.00
MANDURAH	18	14.07
CARNARVON	5	4.60
GERALDTON	17	15.03
KIMBERLEY	29	22.68
BUNBURY	33	30.10
BUSSELTON	13	11.28
MANJIMUP	2	1.00

c) Please provide a region-by region breakdown of the total number of positions required to be cut by the Department of Water as part of the State Government's Voluntary Targeted Separation Scheme?

Answer: The Voluntary Targeted Separation Scheme (VTSS) is a Budget repair tool to assist agencies in meeting Machinery of Government (MoG) savings resulting from the amalgamation of a number of government departments as well as assist in achieving workforce renewal by enabling agencies to retain 20% of the savings. The VTSS is open to all general government employees, though priority is being given to agencies impacted by the MoG changes (which took effect from 1 July 2017).

Agency targets are Cabinet-in-confidence and were provided as a guide to assist agencies and Ministers with implementation of the scheme. While the reductions will vary between agencies depending on factors like MoG changes, the size and role of individual agencies and other impacts, all agencies are expected to contribute in order to meet the overall reduction target of 3,000 employees.

Agencies are currently working with the Public Sector Commission to progress the scheme via individual expression of interest (EOI) processes. The agency EOIs are currently at various stages, with all exits expected to occur by 31 March 2018. Progress will be reported to Cabinet during the 2018-19 Budget process, with the aim of achieving the 3,000 separations and

reflecting the actual savings and costs from the VTSS in the 2018-19 Budget.

2) Page 60 refers to the Groundwater investigations:

- a) What Royalties for Regions' funded projects are due for finalisation?
Answer: Under funding agreement MOU 262, Regional Water Availability, Planning and Investigation program, total value \$12.82 million, the following projects are due for finalisation (other projects have been previously finalised):
- i) The Murchison palaeovalleys project has completed all funding milestones. Additionally, a related research report being prepared by CSIRO is to be completed in January 2018.
 - ii) The South West Scott River investigation project is due for completion in March 2018.
 - iii) Dampier Peninsula has completed all funding milestones. Completed 30 June 2017.
 - iv) Under funding agreement MOU 427, the Water for Pilbara Cities program, total value \$12.5 million, is due for finalisation by June 2018.
- b) Can you please provide a region-by-region breakdown of the 'next generation' projects of the State Groundwater Investigation Program?
Answer: Currently active 'next generation' State Groundwater Investigation Program projects, by region are:

Northwest/Kimberley:

Fitzroy Valley Partnership with the CSIRO Northern Australian Water Resource Assessment (2016–2018) – this investigation will determine recharge, aquifer connectivity and surface water-groundwater interactions along the Fitzroy River.

Midwest:

East Midlands project (2016–2019) – this groundwater investigation, on the Dandaragan Plateau between Gingin Brook and Moora, will secure water for agriculture from the Leederville–Parmelia aquifer. It will provide the science to help rebalance water use near Gingin Brook, and increase certainty for the Water for Food Dinner Hill horticultural expansion.

Perth Metropolitan:

North East Corridor / Swan Valley (2016–2019) – this project will increase our understanding of the effects of groundwater pumping and investigate the feasibility of managed aquifer recharge as an option for urban development, horticulture, viticulture and agri-tourism in this area.

Kings Park Formation investigation and WESROC managed aquifer recharge partnership (2016–2019) – the Department has partnered with western suburbs local government to investigate the potential for managed aquifer recharge as an alternative supply source to maintain parks and ovals. This project will also improve our understanding of how groundwater moves between the shallow Superficial and deeper Leederville and Yarragadee aquifers through the Kings Park Formation, which will help with optimising deep aquifer abstraction for public water supply.

Statewide:

Seawater Interface Monitoring (2016–2020) – this project will help us to manage groundwater in coastal aquifers so they can be used to their full potential without going saline. The project has identified aquifers around the state that are at risk of going saline, and will install infrastructure to help monitor and manage the seawater interface.

Groundwater model optimisation collaboration with the Water Corporation and the University of Western Australia (2017–2020) – this partnership will provide greater certainty about water supplies through developing innovative modelling tools to improve interpretation of groundwater modelling results. The project will use the Perth Regional Aquifer Modelling System as a case study to develop these advanced tools, which can then be applied to models throughout the State.

c) How will these regional projects be funded?

Answer: The projects are funded by the groundwater investigation and monitoring asset investment program which has a capital budget of \$2.943 million in 2017-18, \$3.974 million in 2018-19, \$4.519 million in 2019-20 and \$4.295 million in 2020-21.

d) Please outline timelines for these regional projects?

Answer:

- i) Fitzroy Valley (2016–2018)
- ii) East Midlands (2016–2019)
- iii) North East Corridor / Swan Valley (2016–2019)
- iv) Kings Park Formation and WESROC (2016–2019)
- v) Seawater Interface Monitoring (2016–2020)
- vi) Groundwater model optimisation (2017–2020)

3) Page 29 refers to the Water Security in Carnarvon:

a) When will the draft Gascoyne Master Plan be finalised?

Answer: At 30 June 2017 no decision had been taken in relation to the finalisation of the draft Gascoyne Master Plan. Responsibility for delivery of the Water for Food Gascoyne project transferred to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development from 1 July 2017.

b) What are the priority areas within the Gascoyne Master Plan and when will the outcomes be delivered?

Answer: Not applicable – see (a) above.

- c) How much was allocated to the Draft Gascoyne Master Plan in the 17-18 Budget?

Answer: Not applicable – see (a) above.

- 4) Page 130 makes reference to women in leadership as a part of the Workforce and Diversity Plan:

- a) What percentage of the total number of positions are women?

Answer: 51 per cent.

- b) What percentage of women are classified in positions of level 8 and above?

Answer: 22 per cent.

- c) What strategies have been implemented to increase women in leadership and senior positions?

Answer: In May 2017, the Corporate Executive of the Department of Water endorsed the Diversity in Leadership Working Group to progress a project to address diversity within senior leadership of the Department. Following the announcement of the formation of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation the project was expanded to the whole new agency.

The project focuses on a long-term, sustainable view to increasing diversity in senior leadership, including addressing the gender gap.

- 5) Page 37 refers to the Water for Food program, as of June 2017:

- a) How many Department of Water “Water for Food” staffing positions have been transferred to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development?

Answer: 11

- b) How many FTE currently exist in Water to support Water for Food?

Answer: 12

- c) How many of the positions previously located in regional areas – Broome, Bunbury and Kununurra - were transferred to Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development?

Answer: 3

- d) How many of those Water for Food staffing positions will be made redundant or had their contracts terminated or contracts not renewed?

Answer: Responsibility for delivery of the Water for Food project transferred to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development from 1 July 2017.

- e) How many FTE currently exist within Department of Water to support Water for Food projects?

Answer: See answer to question (b).

- f) How will the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation work to reduce the barriers to Water for Food projects?

Answer: The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation is working to use the new resource information gathered from the program to refine and update allocation limits and improve certainty around water availability in the Water for Food project areas.

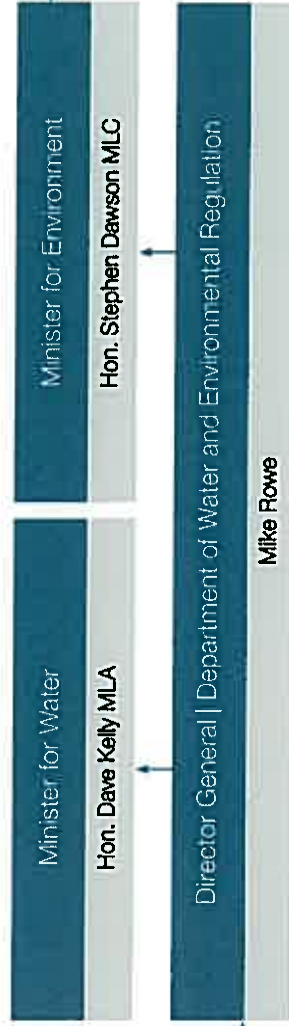
- 6) Page 11 provides a copy of an organisation chart up until 30 June 2017. Please provide a current organisational chart from 1 July 2017?

Answer: A copy of the organisational chart as at 1 July 2017 is provided at attachment 1.



Interim structure

Environmental Protection Authority
Waste Authority
Cockburn Sound Management Council
Air Quality Coordinating Committee
Contaminated Sites Committee
Office of Appeals Convenor
Keep Australia Beautiful Council WA



Office of Director General
Executive management support,
Ministerial liaison and Communications.

Interim Executive Director Strategic Policy and Programs	Sarah McEvoy Environmental, water (resources, industry and services) and waste strategic policy and programs; support services to the Waste Authority, Keep Australia Beautiful Council WA, Cockburn Sound Management Council and Air Quality Coordinating Committee; and amendments to existing, and drafting new. Acts and subordinate legislation administered by the department.
Interim Executive Director Science and Planning	Greg Claydon Water information and modelling; water resource assessments; water science; water allocation and supply planning; public drinking water source protection planning; urban water, flood and drainage management specialist advice; the integration of water and land use planning; environmental noise specialist advice; air quality information and specialist advice; land and water quality specialist advice; and regulating contaminated sites.
Interim Executive Director EPA Strategy and Guidance	Patrick Seares Strategic and policy advice to the Environmental Protection Authority; and Minister for Environment; expert advice into complex environmental impact assessments for projects and schemes.
Interim Executive Director EPA Services	Anthony Sutton Services the Environmental Protection Authority; impact assessment support for significant proposals; and evaluating amendments to Ministerial conditions and changes to approved proposals.
Interim Executive Director Regulatory Services (Water)	Paul Brown Assessing and determining enforceable water licences and permits; overseeing operational management of activities subject to water licences; supporting Compliance and Enforcement programs associated with water licensing; ensuring transparent, effective, logical, timely and consistent water regulatory practices.
Interim Executive Director Regulatory Services (Enforcement)	Kelly Faulkner Assessing and determining environmental regulation applications (works approvals, licenses and clearing permits) that are effective and enforceable; overseeing operational management of activities subject to granted instruments; supporting Compliance and Enforcement programs; and managing contentious issues associated with instrument activities.
Interim Executive Director Compliance and Enforcement	Stuart Cowie Integrated environmental compliance, enforcement and pollution response services; annual environmental compliance programs; regulating and monitoring controlled waste movements; administering the landfill levy; and handling complaints.
Interim Executive Director Corporate Services	Geoff Gilbert Customer-focused finance and administration; human resources; legal and information services; digital, technology and communication services; meeting compliance requirements and supporting the achievement of the department's strategic objectives.