



Estimates and Financial Operations Committee

2016-17 Annual Report hearings - Questions prior to hearings

Water Corporation

Hon Jacqui Boydell MLC asked:

1. Page 51 refers to the total number of employees and FTE:
 - (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.
 - (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.
 - (c) Please provide a region-by region breakdown of the total number of positions required to be cut by Water Corporation as part of the State Government's Voluntary Targeted Separation Scheme.

Answer:

- 1(a)-(b) The Water Corporation has five operational regions across Western Australia. Operational and seasonal demands require some employee movements across regions and between metropolitan and regional locations.

Region	30/06/2017		31/12/2017	
	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE
Goldfields & Agricultural Region	170	167.01	180	176.62
Great Southern Region	139	133.79	139	133.67
Mid-West Region	109	106.62	109	107.97
North West Region	161	160.80	154	153.41
South West Region	176	169.98	169	163.78
Total	755	738.20	751	735.45

- 1(c) Nil. The Water Corporation is not participating in this scheme

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2. Page 31 refers to the nitrate levels in the Mid-West, and I ask:
 - (a) When will the program be rolled out in Meekatharra, Mount Magnet and Sandstone?
 - (b) How much has been allocated to this treatment program?

Answer:

- 2(a) It is estimated that water treatment solutions in these towns will be operational by June 2020.
- (b) The current estimate is \$16,145,000. This figure will be refined once the scope of work has been finalised and a contractor engaged.

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3. Page 26 refers to the Lease Agreement in Broome:
- (a) Is the first stage of nature fruit orchard complete? If no, why not?
 - (b) How many Aboriginal people have been employed so far?
 - (c) How many training places have been created?

Answer:

- 3(a) - (c) These questions should be referred to MAC for a response.
Water Corporation has leased the land to MAC free of charge and the project maintains our full support.

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Hon Jacqui Boydell MLC asked:

4. Page 31 refers to the Farmlands Project:
- (a) As of December 2017, how many local and non-local contractors have been used to date?
 - (b) As of December 2017, how many of these contractors were/are local Aboriginal businesses?
 - (c) As of December 2017, how many training places have been created?
 - (d) What steps are in place to increase the participation of local contractors, particular Aboriginal businesses?

Answer:

- 4(a) Seven locally based contractors have been awarded a total of 24 contracts. One non-local contractor was used.
- (b) One Aboriginal business has completed three separate contracts.
- (c) None.
- (d) The Water Corporation conducted an extensive engagement process at the commencement of the project with local shires, business groups and communities, including presentations in several of the towns, field days and Development Commission meetings. This engagement led to great interest in the work from local, regional and Aboriginal businesses that subsequently resulted in successful bid awards to these companies.

The Water Corporation continues to actively seek out and encourage local, regional and Aboriginal businesses to bid. The program is structured so that the jobs are sized and grouped for delivery by local contractors. The bid evaluation criteria also supports the selection of competitive local, regional and Aboriginal contractors.

In October 2017, the Water Corporation held its first Aboriginal Supplier Tradeshow that was attended by 30 wholly owned and operated Aboriginal businesses from all over Western Australia, with other companies and government agencies also attending.

The Aboriginal suppliers that took part in the tradeshow came from a range of industries including civil construction, electrical, plumbing, water/wastewater services, employment services, office stationery supplies and landscape gardening.

The Water Corporation is committed to fostering partnerships with Aboriginal suppliers across the State as a key part of its Reconciliation Action Plan, which assists in the ongoing growth of Aboriginal economic development and jobs.