

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2017

Agriculture and Water Resources

Question Number: 146

Division/Agency: Water Division

Topic: Tasmanian Sewerage Infrastructure Upgrades

Proof Hansard Page: written

Senator URQUHART asked:

1. I note Infrastructure Australia's list of priority projects published January 2017 identifies as a proposed initiative "Tasmanian Sewerage Infrastructure Upgrades". Has the Minister or Department been contacted by TasWater for Commonwealth funding for water and sewerage infrastructure in Tasmania?
 - IF YES: What was the nature of that request?
 - How much Commonwealth funding was requested for this infrastructure?
 - Has the funding requested been in relation to an investigation/business case? The design of infrastructure? Or actual construction of new infrastructure?
 - How far has this funding request progressed?
2. Are you aware of the Minister or Department being contacted by the Tasmanian State Treasurer for Commonwealth funding for water and sewerage infrastructure in Tasmania?
 - IF NO: Has anyone in the Tasmanian Government contacted the Minister or Department about the Commonwealth funding water and sewerage infrastructure in Tasmania?
 - IF YES: What was the nature of the representation?

Answer:

The Treasury has provided the following response:

On 28 April 2016, the Joint Commonwealth and Tasmanian Economic Council (the Council) noted the challenges posed by Tasmania's ageing and dispersed water and sewerage infrastructure, and noted a funding model to address these challenges proposed by TasWater. The funding model proposed by TasWater included a \$300 million Commonwealth contribution. The Council agreed to further discussions on how to address the challenges presented. The next Council meeting is scheduled for 20 April 2017.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Agriculture and Water Resources

Question Number: 147

Division/Agency: Water Division

Topic: Launceston Water and Sewerage

Proof Hansard Page: written

Senator URQUHART asked:

1. I note that the city of Launceston has a combined sewerage and stormwater system, without separation of sewerage and stormwater outflows. Has any material been supplied to Federal government as to the likely cost of separation of sewerage and stormwater within the city of Launceston?
2. Is there any material to suggest that the separation of sewerage and stormwater within the city of Launceston will have any effect upon the incidence of discharge of raw sewerage in breach of environmental obligations?
3. Has the Federal government received any submissions as to the likely increase in sewerage volume to the system, and the capacity for the Launceston sewerage system to cope with anticipated increases in volume?

Answer:

Treasury has provided the following response:

On 28 April 2016, the Joint Commonwealth and Tasmanian Economic Council (the Council) noted the challenges posed by Tasmania's ageing and dispersed water and sewerage infrastructure, including in the City of Launceston, and noted a funding model to address these challenges proposed by TasWater. The Council agreed to further discussions on how to address the challenges presented. The next Council meeting is scheduled for 20 April 2017.