

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2017 - 2018

Division/Agency: Budget Policy Division

Question No: 187

Topic: Tasmanian Sewerage Infrastructure Upgrades

Reference: Written

Senator: Urquhart, Anne

Question:

I note Infrastructure Australia's list of priority projects published January 2017 identifies as a proposed initiative "Tasmanian Sewerage Infrastructure Upgrades". I also note that the answer to question on notice 146 from February 2017 Estimates in the RRAT Committee stated that TasWater has proposed a funding model that includes a \$300 million Commonwealth contribution. The answer to this question on notice was provided by the Treasury. The answer also noted that a further meeting of the Joint Commonwealth and Tasmanian Economic Council would be held on 20 April 2017.

1. Can Treasury confirm that the Tasmanian Government and TasWater are still requesting a Commonwealth contribution of \$300 million for water and sewerage infrastructure in Tasmania? Have there been any variations to the request?
2. Has the funding requested by TasWater/Tasmanian Government 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?
3. Were any decisions made by the Joint Commonwealth and Tasmanian Economic Council in relation to Tasmanian water and sewerage infrastructure at the 20 April 2017 meeting?
4. Are you aware of the Treasury or Treasury Department being contacted by the Tasmanian State Treasurer for Commonwealth funding for water and sewerage infrastructure in Tasmania since February 2017?
 - a) IF NO: Has anyone in the Tasmanian Government contacted the Treasury or Treasury Department about the Commonwealth funding water and sewerage infrastructure in Tasmania?
 - b) IF YES: What was the nature of the representation?

Answer:

1. A submission was made by Infrastructure Tasmania to Infrastructure Australia and the proposal is listed as a Priority Initiative on the February 2017 Infrastructure Australia Priority List. An Initiative on the Infrastructure Priority List is a potential infrastructure solution for which a business case has not yet been completed. This proposal has been the subject of discussions at the Joint Commonwealth and Tasmanian Economic Council.
2. We understand that the Commonwealth contribution sought by TasWater is to provide for construction costs.
3. No.
4. No. The Department of the Treasury has not received such representations.