

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Treasurer:

Annual Report – Utilities Commission NT

1. Please advise the reasons for the extensive delays in the approval of the Access Policy for the Port of Darwin.
2. Can you please advise if the Utilities Commission made any submission to the Roadmap to Renewables report?
3. Does the Utilities Commission conduct compliance monitoring of the water the Power Water Corporation provides residential customers? If so, what was the nature and/or amount of compliance tests or monitoring conducted in 2016-17?
4. Can you please provide a breakdown of the \$36,600 spent on staff training and recruitment?

ANSWER

- 1. *Please advise the reasons for the extensive delays in the approval of the Access Policy for the Port of Darwin.***

The Utilities Commission and the private port operator Darwin Port Operations Pty Ltd (DPO), worked constructively together over an extended period to ensure the Port of Darwin Access Policy not only met the requirements of the Ports Management legislation, but was also a workable document for the private port operator and port users. The process included three rounds of stakeholder engagement on the draft Access Policy.

- 2. *Can you please advise if the Utilities Commission made any submission to the Roadmap to Renewables report?***

The Utilities Commission made a presentation to the Renewable Energy Expert Panel and provided advice, of a factual nature, as requested. However, the Commission did not make a submission to the Expert Panel.

3. Does the Utilities Commission conduct compliance monitoring of the water the Power Water Corporation provides residential customers? If so, what was the nature and/or amount of compliance tests or monitoring conducted in 2016-17?

The Utilities Commission is an economic regulator. The Commission does not monitor PWC's water compliance with health or environmental regulatory requirements.

4. Can you please provide a breakdown of the \$36,600 spent on staff training and recruitment?

Recruitment costs were \$17 900. The majority of this related to the recruitment of the new Director Utilities Commission, which included relocation costs.

Staff training costs were \$18 700 and included study reimbursements (\$3 400), attendance at various conferences (\$3 000), and the cost of hosting the Utility Regulators Forum (\$12 300).

In May 2017, the Commission hosted the biannual Utility Regulators Forum on behalf of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC). The forum took place over two days and was attended by various regulators from across Australia, including the Northern Territory Utilities Commission.