

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources:

Review of Water Extraction Licences

1. What were the criteria for selection of all review panel members?
2. Why were no Territory 'experts' selected for the review panel?
3. How many times do you expect the Review of Water Extraction Licences panel will meet between the announcement and the final release of its report?
4. Where will these meetings take place?
5. Will panel members be expected to attend meetings or will they be permitted to participate via conference call?
6. How will they accumulate information to contribute to the review?
7. What is the budgeted cost of the review?
8. What is Ms Megan Dyson's full remuneration for chairing the review – including sitting fees, travel, accommodation and other payments?
9. What is Dr Annette Davison's full remuneration for working on the review – including sitting fees, travel, accommodation and other payments?
10. When will the review be finalised?
11. Will both the review and its recommendations be made public in full?

ANSWER

1. Selection of the panel members was based on the assessment criteria of:
 - experience in conducting audits/reviews of water licensing;
 - experience in water resource management;
 - relevant legal and auditing expertise; and
 - comprehensive experience in assessing legislation, policy and processes, particularly in relation to water allocation
2. Selection of the Review Panel was based on merit and availability to deliver within the timeframe determined by the Government.

3. The Review Panel has met face-to-face on four occasions since commencement of the review. No further face-to-face meetings are scheduled to occur at this time.

There have been numerous teleconference meetings between the Review Panel.

4. The Review Panel has convened face-to-face on two occasions in Adelaide, and on two occasions in Darwin.
5. Where the nature of the meetings has necessitated face-to-face engagement, the panel has physically attended. However, the majority of contact between the Review Panel has been via telephone.
6. The Review Panel has reviewed the legislative and policy framework for the Northern Territory, reviewed all relevant licence application documents, received verbal and written briefings from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and interviewed relevant Government personnel as identified by the Panel.
7. The estimated total cost of the review is \$366 000. This will be met from within existing Department of the Chief Minister resources.
8. Ms Megan Dyson is being remunerated at an hourly rate for her work. This remuneration is confidential and has been negotiated as part of Ms Dyson's contract. Total remuneration to Ms Dyson is unable to be identified until the review is complete.
9. Dr Annette Davison is being remunerated at an hourly rate for her work. This remuneration is confidential and has been negotiated as part of Dr Davison's contract. Total remuneration to Dr Davison is unable to be identified until the review is complete.
10. The review will be finalised and a report delivered to Government in mid-2017.
11. Yes.