

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2017 - 2018

Division/Agency: Budget Policy Division
Question No: 185
Topic: Launceston Sewerage Infrastructure Upgrades
Reference: Written
Senator: Urquhart, Anne

Question:

I note that the city of Launceston has a combined sewerage and stormwater system, without separation of sewerage and stormwater outflows. I also note that the answer to question on notice 147 from February 2017 Estimates in the RRAT Committee stated that TasWater has proposed a funding model to the Commonwealth to address Launceston's water and sewerage infrastructure challenges. 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. Has any material been supplied to Federal government as to the likely cost of separating sewerage and stormwater within the city of Launceston? What was the nature of this request? How much did TasWater/Tasmanian Government request?
2. Is there any material to suggest that separating 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?
4. Were any decisions made by the Joint Commonwealth and Tasmanian Economic Council in relation to Launceston sewerage infrastructure at the 20 April 2017 meeting?

Answer:

1. The cost of separating Launceston's stormwater and sewerage systems under the Launceston Sewerage Improvement Plan is estimated by TasWater to be \$321 million. This estimate is published as part of the most recent TasWater Price and Service Plan. The Plan is published on the Tasmanian Economic Regulator's website:

<http://www.energyregulator.tas.gov.au>

The Tasmanian Government has not approached the Commonwealth with a specific proposal to contribute funding.

2. The Department of the Treasury is unaware of any such material.
3. The Department of the Treasury is unaware of any such submissions.
4. No decisions were made at the Joint Commonwealth and Tasmanian Economic Council meeting in relation to Launceston sewerage infrastructure.