

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

National Water Commission

Additional Estimates Hearings 2006-07

(Question No. PM57)

With regard to each agencies (and the department itself) that fall inside the department's portfolio, could the department indicate

1. What date the agency's 2005-06 Annual Report was tabled before parliament?
2. If the annual report was not tabled by 31 October 2006, could the department indicate:
 - a. When the report was tabled, or if it remains untabled what date the report is expected to be tabled by.
 - b. Whether the agency's own legislation provides an alternative timeframe for its annual report. If so, could the department provide:
 - i. A description and reference to the relevant provision and legislation.
 - ii. An explanation of why the agency cannot meet the general timeframe set out in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's Requirements for Annual Reports, and so requires an alternative timeframe?
 - c. Whether the agency was granted an extension under section subsections 34C(4) - (7) of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901*? If so, could the department provide:
 - i. The date for finalizing the report as set out in the extension.
 - ii. The reason given for granting the extension.
 - iii. The date that the Minister tabled in Parliament a statement explaining why an extension was granted.
 - iv. A copy of the Minister's statement.
 - d. Where the agency's legislation doesn't provide for an alternative timeframe (as per question b) nor was the agency granted an extension (as per question c) could the department provide:
 - i. Explanation for why the Annual Report was tabled outside the timeframe set by DPM&C despite there being no provision alternative timeframe set out in the agency's legislation nor there being any formal extension granted.
 - ii. Details of any other arrangement in place for the tabling of the agency's Annual Report.

Answer:

1. The National Water Commission's 2005-06 Annual Report was tabled in Parliament on 17 October 2006.
2. N/A



Australian Government
National Water Commission

Distribution List

Prime Minister

Ms Georgopoulos
PMOx3

for signature and authorisation

Parl Sec

due date: Thursday 12 October 2006. Reason: to allow tabling on Friday 13 October 2006, enabling the Report to be available for Water Week, beginning Sunday 15 October.

Dr Shergold
Dr HorneCEO
Filex1

**DISTRIBUTION AND TABLING OF THE NATIONAL WATER
COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT**

Summary:

The National Water Commission (the Commission), in line with the *National Water Commission Act 2004* (the Act) and Tabling Circular No. 2/2005 requires your endorsement for the distribution and tabling of the 2005-06 Annual Report.

Background:

You have previously seen and noted the Annual Report of the National Water Commission (my brief 2006/00121 of 29 August). That brief outlined general distribution and tabling requirements. Specifically these requirements are as follows:

- The Commission must table the Report by 31 October. In order to table the Report prior to the commencement of Water Week on Sunday 15 October, the Commission must provide the Report to the tabling office by Thursday 12 October; and
- According to Section 45(4) of the Act, you must give a copy of the Report to the relevant Minister for each of the parties to the National Water Initiative at the same time the report is presented to the Commonwealth Parliament.

Issue:

Eight letters are attached to this brief, addressed to the relevant Premiers and Chief Ministers, for your signature. These will accompany the copy of the Report which is also attached to this brief.

Recommendation:

The memorandum to the tabling office will be signed by the General Manager, Corporate Strategy and Service Group, once you provide your authority to table the Report.

Ken Matthews
Chairman and CEO
National Water Commission
9 October 2006

Contact Officer: Kim Ulrick (02 6102 6023)

SIGNED

(John Howard)

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