

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT — LEGISLATION

1192. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the minister representing the Minister for Water:

This is a question from yesterday, 14 December. I note that the government's November 2020 *Western Australian climate policy* refers to the introduction of "an improved legislative framework to address the challenge of climate change and provide certainty for water users."

- (1) Will the government introduce a bill to change the present Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 within this parliamentary term?
- (2) What is the scope of the bill and what certainty does the government wish to provide?
- (3) Does the government intend to consult with all water users prior to introducing the bill?
- (4) If yes to (3), how and when will this consultation occur?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. The Minister for Water has provided the following information.

- (1)–(4) Work is underway to draft a bill to modernise Western Australia's water resource management legislation. The bill will replace six outdated acts, including the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914. Consultation on water legislation reform has occurred for over 15 years and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation will continue to liaise with the water resources reform reference group that includes representation from key industries, community and agricultural stakeholders.