

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (COST RECOVERY) REGULATIONS 2021

**864. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:**

I refer to the pricing model developed on behalf of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation for the purposes of the Environmental Protection (Cost Recovery) Regulations 2021.

- (1) Do industry stakeholders concur with the underlying assumptions of the pricing model developed by Lisa Byrne Consulting and validated by EY?
- (2) If not, can the minister account for the divergence of opinion between DWER and the industry on the model's assumptions?
- (3) Has DWER invoked the inclusion of its mandated non-disclosure clauses in contracts with both consultants, as the justification for not providing industry stakeholders with the documents and data generated in the development of the pricing model?
- (4) If yes, can DWER waive its privilege and provide these documents to industry to facilitate genuine consultation?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer is provided on behalf of the Minister for Environment.

- (1)–(4) The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation—DWER—consultation on implementation of cost recovery for part IV of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 closed on 22 October 2021. DWER is still undertaking its review of the submissions received. As advised through the answer to question without notice 824, stakeholders were offered direct briefings on the documents and data that informed the cost recovery model as part of the consultation process. The honourable member has submitted a separate question on notice requesting a copy of these documents. DWER continues to work with the authors regarding the authority to release this information, and an answer to this question will be provided by the due date.