

WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION — SPECIAL ADVISER

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

This question is dated 19 August and, for the minister's reference, is C585.

I refer to the minister's confirmation that a public servant within the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation was appointed to the position of special adviser, regulatory reform on 9 August at a salary of \$486 956.68 per annum.

- (1) What process was followed in the creation of the abovementioned position and the appointment of the individual to that position; for example, was the position advertised; and, if not, why not?
- (2) Who was responsible for managing the above recruitment or appointment process?
- (3) To whom does the individual holding the position of special adviser, regulatory reform, report, and what are the key performance indicators for the position?
- (4) With respect to the salary mentioned above, why is the individual remunerated at a level higher than the director general of DWER, and what factors were considered in setting that salary?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. I provide the following answer on behalf of the minister representing the Minister for Environment.

The figure the honourable member has cited in his question describes salary and superannuation entitlements.

- (1)–(4) The person is a CEO who has been transferred to the performance of other functions under section 50 of the Public Sector Management Act 1994. The person can then be deployed by the Public Sector Commissioner to functions or projects as needed. A transfer under this section does not affect the terms or conditions of their employment contract. Operationally, the person reports to the director general of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. The Public Sector Commissioner remains their employing authority.