

Division 44: Water and Rivers Commission -

Question: Mrs Edwardes asked whether the minister could provide a breakdown of the figures for outputs 1 to 7 for the Output and Appropriation Summary.

Answer: Following is a breakdown of the figures:

OUTPUT 1 - Water Allocation Policies

Water Allocation Policies	972,406
Strategic Water Use Plans	1,235,715
Capital User Charge	19,443
	2,227,564

OUTPUT 2 - Water Information and Allocation Plans for Sustainable Development

Water Allocation Values and Management	5,310,276
Measure and monitor water quantity and quality	6,513,840
Capital User Charge	3,455,907
	15,280,023

OUTPUT 3 - Regulation, Licensing and Community Awareness

Regulation, licensing and Community Awareness	7,152,434
Capital User Charge	124,068
	7,276,502

OUTPUT 4 - Rural Water Supply Assistance

Rural Water Assistance Grants and Planning	1,548,266
Capital User Charge	8,616
	1,556,882

OUTPUT 5 - Water Protection Policies, Guidelines and Regulation

Protection of Public and Private Water Supplies	2,519,582
Capital User Charge	12,423,671
	14,943,253

OUTPUT 6 - Water Resource Information, Protection Plans and Works

Assess environmental impacts on water resources	1,861,723
Management Authorities	1,659,121
Wetland Protection	569,492
Waterways Protection	9,622,210
Salinity Management	9,560,300
Capital User Charge	287,540
	23,560,386

OUTPUT 7 - State Development Planning and Approvals

Hole Drilling Investigations	31,188
Water resource appraisal for resource development	1,026,639
Capital User Charge	7,754
	1,065,582

Question: Mrs Edwardes asked whether the minister could provide further information on the parity and wages policy, and the priority and assurance dividend.

Answer: To bring about wages parity within the public sector the government has established a benchmark rate of pay. Agencies with pay rates below this benchmark are to receive funding for pay increases with the aim of lifting the rates to the benchmark. Agencies with pay rates above the benchmark will be subject to a wage freeze when their current Workplace Agreement expires.

The following adjustments were proposed as part of the Water and Rivers Commission's contribution to the Government's Priority and Assurance Dividend. The adjustments have been made with a minimal impact of service levels and after considering whole of state priorities for water resources management.

Extract from *Hansard*
[ASSEMBLY - Friday, 28 September 2001]
p801b-802a
Mrs Cheryl Edwardes

		\$000's		
		2001/02	2002/03 2004/05	2003/04
1.	<i>Sustainable Use of Water Resources for Economic Development</i>	1,065	1,390	1,395
	1,395			
		\$000's		
		2001/02	2002/03 2004/05	2003/04
2.	<i>Protection and Enhancement of the Quality of the State's Surface and Groundwater</i>	913	1,121	1,116
	1,116			
	Total	1,978	2,511	2,511
		2,511		

An additional reduction of \$269k has been made across all Commission business outcomes for reduced travel, consultants and advertising.