

Question on Notice

No. 1900

Asked on Wednesday, 27 November 2019

MR P WEIR ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the recent changes to the fees for Environmental Relevant Activities (ERAs), which have increased by approximately 13 times, from \$297 per year to over \$3,800 per year, as of 1 July 2019—

Will the Minister advise how this increase in fees is justified?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

In December 2018, the Department of Environment and Science (DES) completed a review of all waste-related Environmentally Relevant Activities (ERAs) administered under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

One of the objectives of the review was to introduce a risk-based regulation that would apply consistently across all waste-related activities. Significant consultation was undertaken with the waste management and resource recovery, mining and extractive, and agricultural sectors and their peak bodies. This included the public release of the 'Review of the Regulated Waste Classification and Waste-Related Environmentally Relevant Activity (ERA) frameworks Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement', detailing the proposed changes, from 30 June 2017 to 25 August 2017.

During the review it was identified that some ERAs had disproportionate annual fees when compared to other ERAs that posed similar levels of environmental risk.

The Decision Regulatory Impact Statement, detailing the submissions made and the Government response to the issues raised, including specific changes made to minimise metal recovery annual fee increases, was published in July 2018 and is available on the Queensland Productivity Commission website.

To achieve consistent risk-based regulation that is equitable across similar activities a new annual fee structure was proposed for all waste-related ERAs. This has resulted in the annual fees for some activities such as metal recovery to increase, while those for other general waste facilities to decrease.