

MINISTER CORBELL

CABINET BRIEFING FOR MEETING ON 1 JUNE 2015

SUBMISSION NO: 15/076

Name: WATER RESOURCES (CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT COORDINATION GROUP) AMENDMENT BILL 2015

What is it about?

The Submission seeks agreement on the Water Resources (Catchment Management Coordination Group) Amendment Bill 2015.

Cabinet agreed to the drafting of the Water Resources Amendment Bill in October 2014.

What are key points of the Submission?

- The Bill will be a new Part, Part 7A, to the *Water Resources Act 2007*. The Bill relates closely to the objects of the *Water Resources Act 2007*. The key object of the *Water Resources Act 2007* is to provide for sustainable management of the water resources of the Territory.
- It has been and remains ACT Government policy to establish a catchment management coordination group, especially in response to various reports on water quality in the ACT and region.
- The function of this group is essentially advisory. It will assist to coordinate catchment management within the ACT and the surrounding region, both upstream and downstream.
- The ACT and Region Catchment Coordination Group includes representatives from the surrounding local government areas of New South Wales, Icon Water, the National Capital Authority, a community representative through the Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordination Committee and a representative from the NSW Government. It will have an independent Chair.
- The procedures of the group are the standard procedures provided under ACT legislation.

Issues

- No issues have arisen through the lodgement/circulation process except the informal comment from CMTEDD that the listing of the actual Directors General is too prescriptive and that it should state “relevant directorates” (refer to s67E). The advice obtained from Parliamentary Counsel is that such an approach would complicate the section as it would create the need to define “relevancy” in the Bill and would remove the current clarity on the ACT Government membership.

Implications for EPD

- There are no new implications for EPD as the Group has been meeting on an interim basis.
- EPD has been servicing and will continue to service the ACT and Region Catchment Coordination Group.

Recommendation

That Water Resources (Catchment Management Coordination Group) Amendment Bill 2015 be supported.