



ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development

EPSDD Ref No.: 24/37218

Response to DLO Request

Subject: Response to the Non-potable Water Review and WAC Review

Follow-up questions from Minister Rattenbury's Office dated 17 April 2024

- 1. Can the team please seek further information from Treasury on the timing of the WAC review government response (which will determine our ability to progress the non-potable water review gov response)?**

Response:

Treasury has advised the following:

- There is insufficient time available to progress a business case to implement the ICRC's recommendations in the 2024-25 Budget context, particularly given competing demands including in relation to cost of living and housing measures.
- The Under Treasurer is arranging a meeting with Director General Ponton to discuss the interaction between the WAC review and the Non-potable water review.
- A formal Government response to the ICRC's report is not required, however Treasury will brief Ministers on the findings and next steps when able, in consultation with EPSDD.

- 2. Regarding the joint brief being prepared on the WAC review, can we please confirm the water team are actively involved in this?**

Response:

A joint brief has been drafted by Treasury in consultation with EPSDD, Environment, Heritage and Water Division.

- 3. MO would like to hear EPSDD's advice, from a water policy perspective, on the ICRC WAC review:**

- a. If this will not be accurately reflected in the joint brief, can we please request a separate brief outlining the office of water's advice on the WAC review including any problems, opportunities or issues you think MO should be aware of?**

Response:

The issues associated with the Water Abstraction Charge and review outcomes presented by the ICRC are complex, requiring both financial and water policy considerations. A separate information brief will be prepared on the water policy considerations.