

From: Nilsen, Tom
Sent: Thu, 14 Sep 2023 01:51:46 +0000
To: EPSDD DLO; EPSD Government Services; Burkevics, Bren
Cc: EPSDD Environment; Rutledge, Geoffrey; Wright, Fiona; EPSDDExecutiveOffice; Humphreys, Emma
Subject: RE: LINDA/BREN: RETURNED FOR URGENT REVIEW - 22/440 - Government Response to the Non-Potable Water Review
Attachments: RE: Request for additional information - non-potable water, IN CONFIDENCE - golf fee information.pdf
Categories: EWER & CRA

CABINET

Hi Michelle

Resolved.

- Attach E up to date, one comment for MO (Anna Maguire) to be aware of and resolve/accept.
- MO request for cost implications addressed in separate corro. (attached)

Regards
Tom

From: EPSDD DLO <EPSDDDDLO@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 13 September 2023 5:24 PM
To: EPSD Government Services <EPSDGovernmentServices@act.gov.au>; Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>
Cc: EPSDD DLO <EPSDDDDLO@act.gov.au>; EPSDD Environment <EPSDDEnvironment@act.gov.au>; Rutledge, Geoffrey <Geoffrey.Rutledge@act.gov.au>; Wright, Fiona <Fiona.Wright@act.gov.au>; EPSDDExecutiveOffice <EPSDDExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>; Nilsen, Tom <Tom.Nilsen@act.gov.au>
Subject: LINDA/BREN: RETURNED FOR URGENT REVIEW - 22/440 - Government Response to the Non-Potable Water Review
Importance: High

CABINET

Hi Linda/Bren

SA McGuire has tracked some edits and put comments in the gov response (Attach E – link attached).

For review and any updates that are needed please? Note, the office has not gone through the Cab Sub yet because some of that wording may need updating depending on whether MO suggestions are accepted or not.

Also [@Burkevics, Bren](#) the office has also asked for an indication of the cost implications for the major clubs/water users, noting the team provided the office with a table of estimated cost changes a while back.

The office has asked for this again. I managed to dig up the consultation paper that went to stakeholders on this and have provided that to the MO. If the office is after something different – **could you provide this again please just for their use?**

The package for lodgement with the Cabinet Office by **18 September** so grateful please if this review (and of the Cab Sub/cover brief if needed, resulting from the changes to the Govt Response) can be prioritised accordingly.

Note - This is also listed on the Agenda for discussion at this Friday's exec briefing with Minister.

Thanks so much.

Kind regards
Michelle

Michelle O'Donnell | Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Minister Yvette Berry MLA | Office of Minister Shane Rattenbury MLA

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From: EPSD Government Services <EPSDGovernmentServices@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 1 September 2023 10:41 AM

To: EPSDD DLO <EPSDDDL0@act.gov.au>

Cc: EPSD Government Services <EPSDGovernmentServices@act.gov.au>

Subject: MICHELLE: FOR MO APPROVAL - 22/440 - Government Response to the Non-Potable Water Review

CABINET

Hi Michelle

Please see attached the Exposure Draft package of 22/440 for MO approval.

As requested by MO, this package now includes a draft Tabling Statement. We have added this to the Assembly program for tabling during the 28-30 November Sitting Week.

Due for lodgement with Cabinet Office by 18 September 2023 for ERC 3 November 2023.

Thanks
Guen

Guen Marshall | Assistant Director, Cabinet and Assembly

Government Services | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government

Phone: MS Teams | Email: guenivere.marshall@act.gov.au | EPSDGovernmentServices@act.gov.au

Level 4 (Snow Gum), 480 Northbourne Ave, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

www.environment.act.gov.au

I work part time and am out of the office on Wednesdays

From: Rutledge, Geoffrey <Geoffrey.Rutledge@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 1 September 2023 10:33 AM

To: EPSDDExecutiveOffice <EPSDDExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>; EPSD Government Services
<EPSDGovernmentServices@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: FOR DDG CLEARANCE - Due to MO 01/09 - 22/440 - Government Response to the Non-Potable Water Review

CABINET

Approved.

Thank you.

Geoffrey

From: McGuire, Anna
Sent: Thu, 14 Sep 2023 01:47:22 +0000
To: Nilsen, Tom; Humphreys, Emma
Cc: EPSDD Environment; Burkevics, Bren; EPSDD DLO
Subject: RE: Request for additional information - non-potable water

Thank you both, that's all really helpful.

I think we have what we need to progress it to the Minister for now, but he would appreciate if you're able to prepare that additional information on what government is paying (per KL and annually) to irrigate sports fields (potable and non-potable), and if possible what other users like Phillip Oval are paying to irrigate with potable water. We think this information will be necessary for responding to questions in Cabinet. So it's OK that we won't get it for a while. If there are any issues just let me know.

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Subject: RE: Request for additional information - non-potable water

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

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Emma, Anna,

Golf fees - See attached.

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their budget attributed to Icon Water treated drinking water. This will take at least a week. At the moment we only have information about non-potable irrigated ovals and there aren't many of those.

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- Cheapest water is from rivers, lakes, ponds, groundwater. Irrigating from these sources is licensed by ACT Gov. The rural farmers with riparian frontage are exempt from licensing if using water for stock & domestic (excludes irrigating crops and pasture).
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- 185 licensees subject to WAC, but 10 golf clubs get 50% discount (Market Equity Scheme) and ~20 primary producers get 98% discount (Competition Equalisation Payment). Both discounts are based on attempting parity with NSW irrigators
- Icon Water supply treated effluent to only one business in the ACT (Belconnen Magpies golf club) at \$1.15/KL. Icon Water claim \$2.50 is a more realistic cost-recovery price setting but have yielded to an ICRC recommendation.
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Golf context

- Most golf clubs irrigate at least 100ML in a hot year. That's \$16,000 per year and the cheapest water option. At ~500 members that's \$32 per member per year. Which seems pretty low.
- 8 clubs are reliant on non-potable water in most years, very few need to go to drinking water as a last resort.
- 1 club (Magpies) use 20ML of pond water then make up the rest (80ML) with treated effluent. That's \$3,200 (payable to ACT Gov) and \$92,000 (payable to Icon Water for treated effluent). A lot more expensive than the \$16k option for most other golf clubs.
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Golf Club are literally on Molonglo River frontage and could easily get a licence for cheap non-potable river water, but the Cwth Defence Dept seem content with current financial arrangements.

Cheers

Emma

From: McGuire, Anna <Anna.McGuire@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 14 September 2023 10:10 AM
To: Nilsen, Tom <Tom.Nilsen@act.gov.au>; Humphreys, Emma <Emma.Humphreys@act.gov.au>
Cc: EPSDD DLO <EPSDDDLO@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Request for additional information - non-potable water

And if possible, it would be helpful to get a sense of what the changes will mean for smaller water users in terms of cost impact, if any.

Thanks

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To: Nilsen, Tom <Tom.Nilsen@act.gov.au>; Humphreys, Emma <Emma.Humphreys@act.gov.au>
Cc: EPSDD DLO <EPSDDDLO@act.gov.au>
Subject: Request for additional information - non-potable water

Hi Tom and Emma

I hope you're both going well.

As Michelle mentioned, we would appreciate if you can provide us with an estimate of the cost impacts for specific clubs based on their annual bills. I remember you provided a table showing this a while back but I can't seem to find it.

Also, can you please provide information on how much ACT Government is paying for water to irrigate government-managed sports fields?

My apologies for leaving this a bit late when we've had the pack for a while.

Thanks

Anna

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Subject: RE: 230917 - EPSD Cab (EXP) - Government Response to the Non-Potable Water Review - 22-440
Importance: High

CABINET

Hi Anna – here is the consultation paper that went out to stakeholders on this. It has several tables within.

Is this the additional information/tables you are looking for?

Kind regards

Michelle

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Subject: 230917 - EPSD Cab (EXP) - Government Response to the Non-Potable Water Review - 22-440

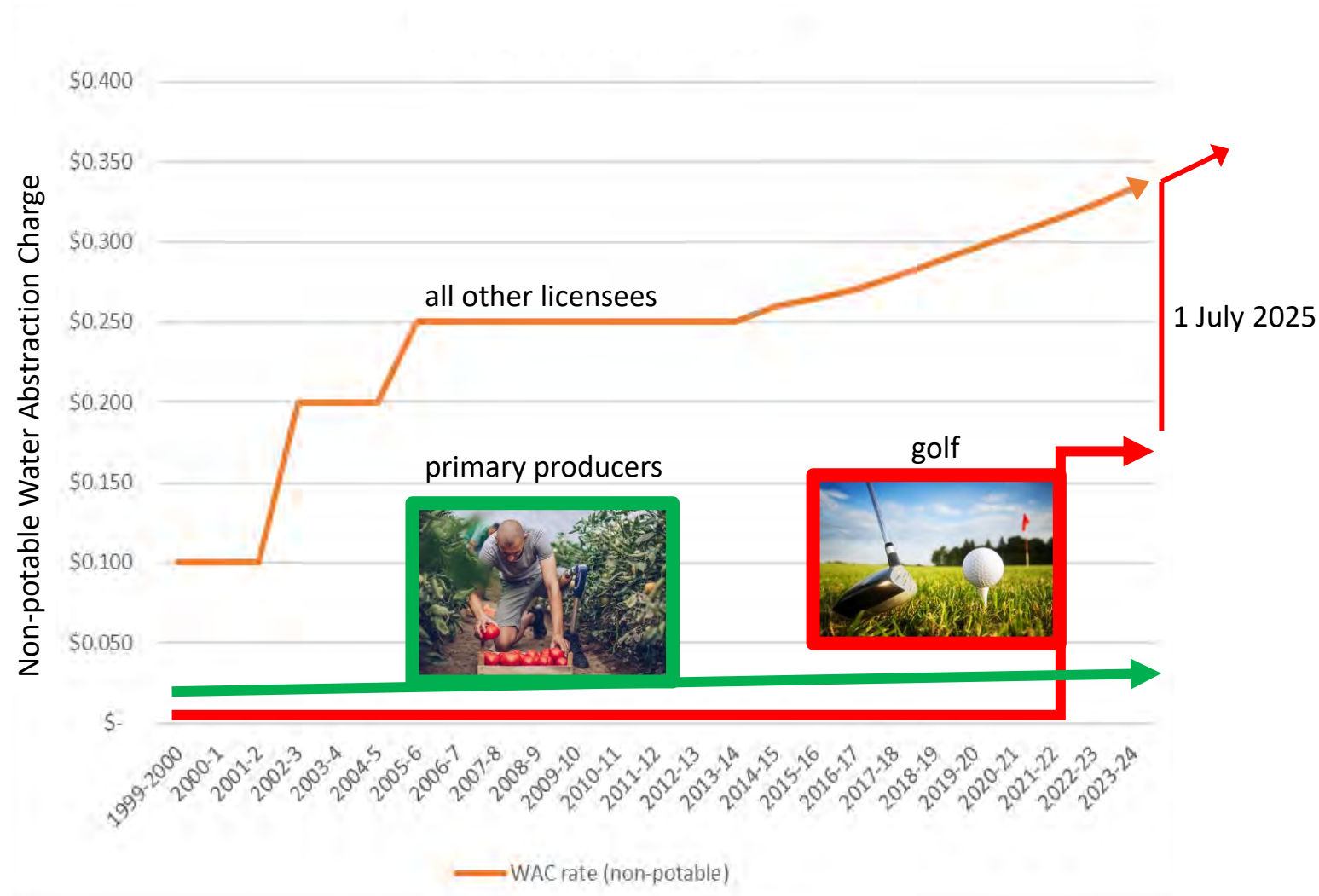
Hi Michelle

I've tracked some edits and put comments in the gov response (Att E). Would you mind sending them to the team for review and any updates that are needed?

I haven't gone through the Cab Sub yet because some of that wording may need updating depending on whether my suggestions are accepted or not.

It would be helpful to have an indication of the cost implications for the major clubs/water users. I know the team provided us with a table of estimated cost changes a while back, would it be possible to get this again? Just for our use, we don't need to include it in the pack (I think).

Thanks



- Narrative:
- Golf clubs have paid nil water abstraction until recently (less than primary producers)
 - Many other community benefit irrigators have paid full fees for the same time
 - Golf clubs are reluctant to lose the 50% concession
 - The proposed independent review of non-potable WAC could see prices drop for all licensees

Club	average annual	fees: prior to 2022	fees: current	fees: from 2025
	non-potable water use 2011-2020 (KL)	Water Abstraction Charge (annual)	Water Abstraction Charge 50% concession (annual)	Water Abstraction Charge no concession (annual)
Gungahlin Lakes	100,636	\$0.00	\$16,806	\$35,659
Gold Creek	140,905	\$0.00	\$23,531	\$49,928
Yowani	80,890	\$0.00	\$13,509	\$28,663
Murrumbidgee	165,047	\$0.00	\$27,563	\$58,483
Capitol	81,317	\$0.00	\$13,580	\$28,814
Federal	47,596	\$0.00	\$7,949	\$16,865
Kohlsdorf (pitch and putt)	13,400	\$0.00	\$2,238	\$4,748
Fairburn	86,797	\$0.00	\$14,495	\$30,756
Royal	303,565	\$0.00	\$50,695	\$107,565
Belconnen	28,843	\$0.00	\$4,817	\$10,220
Duntroon RMC	n/a*	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sum	1,048,996.00	\$0.00	\$175,182	\$371,702

Notes on clubs

Belconnen Golf Club (was Magpies) has additional annual high costs from irrigation supplemented by treated effluent

Federal Golf Club in most years has additional annual high costs from irrigation supplemented by treated drinking water

Duntroon RMC has nil non-potable water use, 100% reliant on high cost treated drinking water

Notes on water prices

Water Abstraction Charge is currently \$0.34 per 1,000 litres

All licensees pay an annual administration fee, currently \$515

Treated drinking water is approximately \$4.50 per 1,000 litres

Treated effluent is approximately \$2.00 per 1,000 litres

Notes on 2025 scenario

The 2025 price scenario presents the worst case the if independent WAC review recommends no change to WAC

If the independent review recommends a lower WAC, this new lower WAC will apply to all non-potable irrigators (golf clubs and every other non-potable licensee)



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Cc: [EPSDD Environment](#); [Burkevics, Bren](#); [EPSDD DLO](#)
Subject: RE: Request for additional information - non-potable water
Date: Thursday, 14 September 2023 11:47:24 AM

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OFFICIAL: Sensitive

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Michelle O'Donnell | Directorate Liaison Officer

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