



**ACT**  
Government

Environment, Planning and  
Sustainable Development

MINISTERIAL BRIEF

UNCLASSIFIED

To: Minister for Environment and Heritage

Tracking No.: 16/21138

From: Director General *Not available.*

Deputy Director General *[Signature] 25/11/16*

Date

Subject: Water Resources Fee Determination

Critical Date: 29 November 2016

Critical Reason: This will enable the fee increase to take place effective from 1 December.

**Purpose**

To seek your endorsement to increase Water Abstraction Charge (WAC) fees for 2016-17 by 2% as recommended in the 2015-16 Budget.

**Recommendations**

That you:

- 1. agree to the increased fees and charges for the Directorate for 2016-17; and **Agreed / Not Agreed / Please Discuss**
- 2. Sign the attached disallowable instrument. **Agreed / Not Agreed / Please Discuss**

Mick Gentleman MLA ..... *[Signature]* ..... 30/11/16

Minister's Office Feedback

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**Background**

1. As part of the 2015-16 Budget process, Budget Committee of Cabinet agreed to the increase of the Water Abstraction Charge (WAC) by 2% per annum.

**Issues**

2. Due to an administrative error in relation to determination DI2016-180 for Water Resources 2016-17, the WAC for 2016-17 was not increased. The Chief Minister Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) has requested that a new determination be issued to increase the WAC by 2%, effective from 1 December 2016.
3. The increase will impact on both urban water supply and groundwater abstraction.

**Financial Implications**

4. This is expected to increase revenue by an additional \$565,000. This determination will not be retrospective but start from the date of notification.

**Consultation**

Internal

5. The Water Policy area has been consulted in relation to the increase.

Cross Directorate

6. CMTEDD has been consulted.

External

7. No external consultation has taken place. The increase was highlighted as part of the 2015-16 Budget process.

**Benefits/Sensitivities**

8. There is some sensitivity in relation to the abstraction of water from surface / groundwater.

**Media Implications**

9. This fee increase was announced as part of the 2015-16 Budget.

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