

Submitted on Sunday, November 11, 2018 - 14:56

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DETAILS  
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Company: [REDACTED]  
First name: David  
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Sector: Agriculture

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NATIVE VEGETATION CLEARING  
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\*1 . Would a strategic approach to clearing, through a strategic purpose permit, benefit you?\*

Response: no  
Comments:

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\*2. Is the 'purpose component' reasonable to apply considering the added complexity of assessing this type of clearing permit?\*

Response: no  
Comments:

\*3. Is the proposed fee structure fair and does it adequately reflect differences in the financial capacity of clearing permit applicants?\*

Response: no  
Comments:

\*4. What is the likely impact on your business or industry of the proposed clearing fee structure?\*

Comments:  
N/A

\*5. Additional comments regarding Native Vegetation Clearing not addressed in the questions above.\*

Comments:

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WATER  
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\*6. Do you consider it reasonable for taxpayers to pay 100 per cent of the cost of assessing water licence and permit applications and if so, why?\*

Response: yes

Comments:

Applicants such as our business have already paid for hydro-geological surveys to be carried out and the information given to the department to add to their data base. In our case we have expended over \$50,000.00 securing these surveys, and yet the department wants to charge us on top of this exorbitant fees for a desk top assessment?

The department states that they are not meeting their KPI's so they need to expand personnel and systems in order to meet unpublished KPI's.

Why should users have to shoulder the burden of departmental incompetence?

What steps, if any, have been undertaken to review departmental procedures to ensure that compliance and efficiency competencies are in place to offset this proposed fee imposition?

What guarantee can the department give to ensure that there will be improved efficiencies?

Will applications will be processed in a timely manner?

Will penalties will be applied to the department/personnel if they fail to achieve their KPI's and deliver outcomes within a nominated time frame?

Surely as a Government department, you have to provide a level of service provided from funds derived from all tax and fee payers in the State

If you wish to pursue the "user pays line", then all users of all Government services should be requested to pay. This should be put to the electorate as policy at the time of election to evaluate public acceptance of such a move.

The department in effect is asking users to pay for departmental incompetency and inefficiency \*7. If water licence and permit assessment fees were introduced, what do you consider to be an appropriate fee for a water licence or permit application?\*

Comments:

Given that applicants have contributed to the data base at their cost through having to supply the department with the results of hydro-geological surveys to prove up the water resource, a fee of no more than \$200.00 would be acceptable to cover the cost of a desk top check and application process.

\*8. Would you consider a risk-based model for determining water licence and permit application fees to

be appropriate? If not, what basis could the department use to structure fees?\*

Response: no

Comments:

\*9. What would be the likely impact on your business or industry if water licence and permit fees were introduced?\*

Comments:

It would place a further fiscal burden on our business where margins are tight.

The annual maintenance cost on bores and equipment, including irrigation lines, valves, tape, plastic mulch, computerised watering systems. plus the cost of fuel for pumping is extremely high.

\*10. If water licence and permit assessment fees were introduced, how could the collection of fees be timed to better support your business or industry? For example, would you benefit from paying fees up front, at the end of a licence assessment or annualised over the term of the licence?\*

Response: unsure

Comments

\*11 . Additional comments regarding Water licences and permits not addressed in the questions above.\*

Comments:

In our area the aquifer has been assessed and a cap placed on annual extraction.

It is, therefore a very simple process in license approval.

Provided annual extraction does not exceed the cap level, the application for and approval of licenses is simplified, and is at best an academic exercise, not warranting the introduction of fees of the magnitude being proposed.