

Submitted on Monday, October 29, 2018 - 02:05

DETAILS

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Sector: Local Government

NATIVE VEGETATION CLEARING

1 . Would a strategic approach to clearing, through a strategic purpose permit, benefit you?

Response: yes

Comments:

Yes, as long as it is capped at \$200 for Non- Metro Shires whose population is under 5000 people. We are a small Shire and this proposal amounts to cost shifting a State based financial burden, on to an already financially burdened regional Community - who are still tax payers. All this means is that Shires will have to get the taxpayers to pay extra, instead of the State using their taxes that they already paying.

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

Response: yes

Comments:

Yes, as long as it is capped at \$200 for Non- Metro Shires whose population is under 5000 people. We are a small Shire and this proposal amounts to cost shifting a State based financial burden, on to an already financially burdened regional Community - who are still tax payers. All this means is that Shires will have to get the taxpayers to pay extra, instead of the State using their taxes that they already paying.

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

Response: no

Comments:

No, because we are a small Shire and this proposal amount to cost shifting a State based financial burden on to an already financially burdened Community - who are still tax payers. All this means is that Shires will have to get the taxpayers to pay extra, instead of the State using their taxes. This potential burden is not reflected in the proposed fee structure.

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

Comments:

It would mean a significant reduction in services offered to the community, as this places a large financial burden on to an already financially burdened regional community. For smaller regional Local governments who clear for purposes such as road construction and maintenance, building or structures and other infrastructure; as your - Scenario 2 - Local government- A local government in the South West applies to clear two hectares of native vegetation for road widening. The fee would be \$3500. If the local government was located in the Pilbara region, the fee would be \$2750: We would have to put the Rates up significantly or forgo services (many that we provide because the State went outside of the metro area) to pay out an extra \$3,500 every time clearing is needed for a job. And we cannot determine what growth patterns will occur along verges in the next 10 years - nor can we afford to pay for an expert to do this work for us! \$3,500 may not be a lot for money the large urban Shires, but it will significantly impact our resources.

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

Comments:

WATER

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: no

Comments:

No the proponent should pay - unless that is a LGA acting on behalf of the community (aka Taxpayers). Then it should be capped at \$200 for Non- Metro Shires whose population is under 5000 people. We are a small Shire and this proposal amounts to cost shifting a State financial burden on to an already financially burdened Community - who are still tax payers. All this means is that Shires will have to get the taxpayers to pay extra, instead of the State using their taxes.

*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:

As the fees proposed for land clearing - unless it is a LGA. Then as above is should be capped at \$200 for

Non- Metro Shires whose population is under 5000 people.

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: yes

Comments:

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

Comments:

We will have to put the Rates up significantly or forgo services (many that we provide because the State wont outside of the metro area)it may not be a lot for money the large urban Shires, but it will significantly impact our resources. This would also significantly impact our regions capacity for economic development, as extremely high utility costs especially water- already prevent the creation of jobs and growth. Further fees would make 'water', an even bigger take-over target for private sector interests -

which again severely impacts many low income families in our State.

*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: