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1 November 2018

Cost recovery responses

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Locked Bag 33, Cloisters Square

PERTH WA 6850

Dear Mr Rowe

DISCUSSION PAPER ON COST RECOVERY

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's discussion paper on cost recovery. We acknowledge the proposed fees for water licences and permit assessments for the mining and public water supply sectors, announced by the Government in May 2018. We understand that the regulations that will enable the Department to start collecting these fees are currently being drafted.

The Water Corporation supports the principle of cost recovery for the assessment of applications made under Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* and the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, and believes it should be implemented in a transparent, accountable and cost efficient manner.

We would welcome further discussion regarding how fees may be collected, with consideration of invoicing on a quarterly, bi-annual or annual basis, and the use of direct debit or other flexible payment methods to minimise administrative burden on both agencies. We also support the recommendation of the Final Report: Inquiry into Water Resource Management and Planning Charges (Economic Regulation Authority, 2011) that cost recovery from Water Corporation for licensing services should be accompanied by defined service standards, as negotiated between the two parties.

If you would like to discuss this submission please contact Sergey Volotovskiy, Manager External Policy, on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

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General Manager Assets Planning

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