



PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

2013-14 AND 2014-15 FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE

SOUTH EAST WATER CORPORATION

SECTION A: Output variances and program outcomes***Question 1 (departments only)***

This question does not apply to your agency.

Question 2 (departments only)

This question does not apply to your agency.

Question 3 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)

This question does not apply to your agency.

SECTION B: Asset investment (departments only)***Question 4***

This question does not apply to your agency.

Question 5

This question does not apply to your agency.

Question 6

This question does not apply to your agency.

Question 7

This question does not apply to your agency.

Question 8

This question does not apply to your agency.

Question 9 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)

This question does not apply to your agency.

SECTION B: Asset investment (non-departments only)**Question 10**

Please provide the following details for any asset investment project where actual expenditure in 2013-14 or 2014-15 varied by \$±10 million or more from the initial budget estimate at the start of the relevant year (**not** the revised estimate).

If there were no asset investment projects for your agency where the actual expenditure varied by \$±10 million or more from the budget estimate, you do not need to answer this question. If this is the case, please indicate 'no relevant projects' in the table(s) below.

(a) in 2013-14

Project	Estimated expenditure in 2013-14 (2013-14 budget papers) (\$ million)	Actual expenditure in 2013-14 (\$ million)	Explanation for variance	Estimated financial completion date in 2013-14 budget papers	Estimated financial completion date in 2014-15 budget papers	Explanation for any changes to the estimated financial completion date
Total SEW Funded Expenditure	256.8	212.1	Largely due to construction delays for Frankston head office and lower sewerage backlog expenditure due to contract savings.			N/A

(b) in 2014-15

Project	Estimated expenditure in 2014-15 (2014-15 budget papers) (\$ million)	Actual expenditure in 2014-15 (\$ million)	Explanation for variance	Estimated financial completion date in 2014-15 budget papers	Estimated financial completion date in 2015-16 budget papers	Explanation for any changes to the estimated financial completion date
Total SEW Funded Expenditure	214.2	221.7	Due to carry over of building construction costs for SEW Frankston head office.			N/A

Question 11

Please detail the initial budget estimates (**not** the revised estimate) for 'purchases of non-financial assets' for 2013-14 and 2014-15 (or equivalent line items in the cash flow statements) for your entity, the actual amounts of those line item in your annual reports and an explanation for any variances greater than ± 10 per cent or \$100 million.

Initial budget estimate for 2013-14 (\$ million)	Actual for 2013-14 (\$ million)	Explanation for any variance greater than ± 10 per cent or \$100 million
256.6	193.7	Lower capital expenditure and higher accruals

Initial budget estimate for 2014-15 (\$ million)	Actual for 2014-15 (\$ million)	Explanation for any variance greater than ± 10 per cent or \$100 million
209.8	233.3	Higher capital expenditure and lower accruals compared to budget

SECTION C: Revenue and appropriations

Question 12

Please explain any variances greater than ± 10 per cent or \$100 million between the prior year's actual result and the actual result for 2013-14 and 2014-15 for each revenue/income category detailed in your operating statement. Please also indicate what any additional revenue was used for or how any reduced amounts of revenue impacted on service delivery.

For departments, please provide data consolidated on the same basis as the budget portfolios outcomes statement in your annual reports.

If there were no revenue/income categories for your department/agency for which the 2013-14 and 2014-15 expenditure varied from the prior year's expenditure by more than ± 10 per cent or \$100 million, you do not need to answer this question. If this is the case, please indicate 'no relevant line items' in the table(s) below.

Revenue category	2012-13 actual (\$ million)	2013-14 actual (\$ million)	Explanations for variances greater than ± 10 per cent or \$100 million	How the additional revenue was used/the impact of reduced revenue
Sales Revenue	705.9	968.2	Largely due to price increases in line with Essential Services Commission Water Plan 2013-14 price determination. There was also a growth in property connections, higher water consumptions and sewer volumes, increases in developer activity.	Higher revenue reduced the reliance on borrowings to fund operations and capital projects
Other Income	0.03	0.04	Due to disposal of company vehicles at public auction	Non-material variance

Revenue category	2013-14 actual (\$ million)	2014-15 actual (\$ million)	Explanations for variances greater than ± 10 per cent or \$100 million	How the additional revenue was used/the impact of reduced revenue
Sales Revenue	968.2	916.3	Largely due to the Government Water Rebate (formerly known as the Fairer Water Bill initiative) provided by SEW on behalf of the state government on water bills of residential customers.	Reduced revenue increased the need to borrow to fund operations and capital projects
Other Income	0.04	0.13	Due to disposal of company vehicles at public auction	Non-material variance

Question 13

Please explain any variances greater than ± 10 per cent or \$100 million between the initial budget estimate (**not** the revised estimate) and the actual result for 2013-14 and 2014-15 for each revenue/income category detailed in your operating statement. Please also identify any actions taken in response to the variations, either to mitigate or take advantage of the impact.

For departments, please provide data consolidated on the same basis as the budget portfolios outcomes statement in your annual reports.

If there were no revenue/income categories for your department/agency for which the 2013-14 and 2014-15 expenditure varied from the initial budget estimate by more than ± 10 per cent or \$100 million, you do not need to answer this question. If this is the case, please indicate 'no relevant line items' in the table(s) below.

Revenue category	2013-14 budget estimate (\$ million)	2013-14 actual (\$ million)	Explanations for variances greater than ± 10 per cent or \$100 million	Actions taken in response
Sales Revenue	896.7	968.2	Largely due to an increase in consumption charges due to favourable weather conditions and increases in development activity.	Higher revenue reduced the reliance on borrowings to fund operations and capital projects

Revenue category	2014-15 budget estimate (\$ million)	2014-15 actual (\$ million)	Explanations for variances greater than ± 10 per cent or \$100 million	Actions taken in response
Sales Revenue	867.0	916.3	Largely due to an increase in consumption charges due to favourable weather conditions and increases in development activity.	Higher revenue reduced the reliance on borrowings to fund operations and capital projects

Question 14 (departments only)

This question does not apply to your agency.

Question 15 (departments only)

This question does not apply to your agency.

Question 16

Regarding the trust accounts listed in the ‘trust account balances’ note to the financial statements in your entity’s annual report, please identify any accounts from which payments were passed directly to other bodies without being counted in your entity’s comprehensive operating statement. For each relevant account, please identify:

- (a) the value of payments;
- (b) the recipients of the payments; and
- (c) the purpose of the payments.

Trust account	Total payments from the account to bodies other than the Department, 2013-14 (\$ million)	Recipient of the payment	Purpose of the payment
N/a	-	-	-

Trust account	Total payments from the account to bodies other than the Department, 2014-15 (\$ million)	Recipient of the payment	Purpose of the payment
N/a	-	-	-

SECTION D: Expenses

Question 17

Please explain any variances greater than ± 10 per cent or \$100 million between the prior year's actual result and the actual result for 2013-14 and 2014-15 for each category of expenses detailed in your operating statement. Please also detail the outcomes in the community¹ achieved by any additional expenses or the impact on the community of reduced expenses (if there was no impact, please explain how that was achieved).

For departments, please provide data consolidated on the same basis as the budget portfolios outcomes statement in your annual reports.

If there were no categories of expenses for your department/agency for which the 2013-14 and 2014-15 expenditure varied from the prior year's expenditure by more than ± 10 per cent or \$100 million, you do not need to answer this question. If this is the case, please indicate 'no relevant line items' in the table(s) below.

Expenses category	2012-13 actual (\$ million)	2013-14 actual (\$ million)	Explanations for variances greater than ± 10 per cent or \$100 million	Outcomes achieved by additional expenses/impact of reduced expenses
Expenses	567.8	772.2	Largely due to price increases, higher water purchases and bulk treatment volumes.	Increased level of expenses in line with budget projections
Finance Costs	62.9	69.7	Due to increase in borrowings resulting in higher interest charges and Financial Accommodation Levy payments	Increased level of expenses in line with budget projections

¹ That is, the impact of service delivery on the community rather than a description of the services delivered.

Expenses category	2013-14 actual (\$ million)	2014-15 actual (\$ million)	Explanations for variances greater than ± 10 per cent or \$100 million	Outcomes achieved by additional expenses/impact of reduced expenses
Expenses	772.2	721.1	Largely due to the Government Water Rebate (formerly known as the Fairer Water Bill initiative) received from Melbourne Water Corporation.	Reduced level of expenses in line with budget projections
Finance Costs	69.7	77.1	Due to increase in borrowings resulting in higher interest charges and Financial Accommodation Levy payments	Reduced level of expenses in line with budget projections

Question 18

Please explain any variances greater than ± 10 per cent or \$100 million between the initial budget estimate (**not** the revised budget) and the actual result for 2013-14 and 2014-15 for each category of expenses detailed in your operating statement. Please also detail the outcomes in the community² achieved by any additional expenses or the impact on the community of reduced expenses (if there was no impact, please explain how that was achieved).

For departments, please provide data consolidated on the same basis as the budget portfolios outcomes statement in your annual reports.

If there were no categories of expenses for your department/agency for which the 2013-14 and 2014-15 expenditure varied from the initial budget estimate by more than ± 10 per cent or \$100 million, you do not need to answer this question. If this is the case, please indicate 'no relevant line items' in the table(s) below.

Expenses category	2013-14 budget estimate (\$ million)	2013-14 actual (\$ million)	Explanations for variances greater than ± 10 per cent or \$100 million	Outcomes achieved by additional expenses/impact of reduced expenses
Expenses	753.6	772.2	Largely due to price increases, higher water purchases and bulk treatment volumes.	Non material variance

² That is, the impact of service delivery on the community rather than a description of the services delivered.

Expenses category	2014-15 budget estimate (\$ million)	2014-15 actual (\$ million)	Explanations for variances greater than ±10 per cent or \$100 million	Outcomes achieved by additional expenses/impact of reduced expenses
Expenses	711.1	721.1	Largely due to price increases, higher water purchases and bulk treatment volumes.	Non material variance

Question 19 (departments only)

This question does not apply to your agency.

Question 20

Please detail any changes to your department's/agency's service delivery as a result of expenditure reduction initiatives, e.g. changes to the timing and scope of specific programs or discontinued programs:

(a) in 2013-14

N/a

(b) in 2014-15

N/a

Question 21 (departments only)

This question does not apply to your agency.

Question 22 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)

This question does not apply to your agency.

Question 23 (PNFC and PFC entities only)

Please detail the value of dividends paid by your agency to the general government sector over the last three years, explaining the reasons for any significant changes over that period and the impact of any changes on the agency.

Total dividends paid in 2012-13 (\$ million)	Total dividends paid in 2013-14 (\$ million)	Total dividends paid in 2014-15 (\$ million)	Explanation for any variance greater than ± 10 per cent or \$100 million	Impact of changes to dividends on the agency
61.5	16.0	52.0	The variance relates to a change in profitability, as dividends are based on net profit before tax.	-

SECTION E: Public sector workforce**Question 24**

Please detail the total full-time equivalent number of staff in your department/agency as at 30 June 2013, 30 June 2014 and 30 June 2015 in each of the following bands of levels, and explain the changes:

Level	Total FTE (30 June 2013)	Total FTE (30 June 2014)	Total FTE (30 June 2015)	Explanation for changes
VPS Grades 1-3	N/a	N/a	N/a	VPS bands not utilised by SEW
VPS Grade 4	N/a	N/a	N/a	VPS bands not utilised by SEW
VPS Grades 5-6 and STS	N/a	N/a	N/a	VPS bands not utilised by SEW
EO	N/a	N/a	N/a	VPS bands not utilised by SEW

Other	N/a	N/a	N/a	VPS bands not utilised by SEW
Total of all staff (including non-VPS grades)	553.30	544.30	521.20	Non-material variance

Question 25

In the table below, please detail the salary costs for 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15, broken down by ongoing, fixed-term and casual, and explain any variances greater than ± 10 per cent or \$100 million between the years for each category.

Employment category	Gross salary 2012-13 (\$ million)	Gross salary 2013-14 (\$ million)	Gross salary 2014-15 (\$ million)	Explanation for any year-on-year variances greater than ± 10 per cent or \$100 million
Ongoing	49.2	50.65	51.60	Non-material variance
Fixed-term	0.6	1.0	0.8	Non-material variance
Casual	0.1	0.45	0.4	Non-material variance
Total	49.9	52.1	52.8	Non-material variance

Question 26

Please detail the number of executives who received increases in their base remuneration in 2013-14 and 2014-15, breaking that information down according to what proportion of their salary the increase was, and explaining the reasons for executives' salaries increasing in each bracket.

Increase in base remuneration	Number of executives receiving increases in their base rate of remuneration of this amount in 2013-14	Reasons for these increases
0-3 per cent	8	In line with GSERP
3-5 per cent	-	-

5-10 per cent	-	-
10-15 per cent	-	-
greater than 15 per cent	-	-

Increase in base remuneration	Number of executives receiving increases in their base rate of remuneration of this amount in 2014-15	Reasons for these increases
0-3 per cent	8	In line with GSERP
3-5 per cent	-	-
5-10 per cent	-	-
10-15 per cent	-	-
greater than 15 per cent	-	-

SECTION F: Inter-sector flows

Question 27 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)

This question does not apply to your agency.

SECTION G: Government decisions impacting on the finances

Question 28

(a) Please detail any costs incurred during 2014-15 in the following categories as a result of machinery-of-government changes:

	(\$ million)
Consultants and contractors (including legal advice)	N/a
Relocation	N/a
Telephony	N/a
IT and records management	N/a
Rebranding	N/a
Furniture and fit-out	N/a
Other	N/a

(b) If these costs were met out of existing budgets, please indicate what projects, programs or areas the money was originally budgeted for.

N/a

(c) Please identify any benefits achieved during 2014-15 as a result of machinery-of-government changes, quantifying the benefits where possible.

N/a

Question 29

Please identify any Commonwealth Government decisions during 2013-14 or 2014-15 which had not been anticipated in the State budget but which impacted on your entity's finances or activities during those years (including new funding agreements, discontinued agreements and changes to funding levels). Please quantify the impact on income and expenses where possible.

Commonwealth Government decision	Impact in 2013-14		Impact in 2014-15	
	on income (\$ million)	on expenses (\$ million)	on income (\$ million)	on expenses (\$ million)
Carbon Tax Repeal	N/A	N/A	Not material	Not material

Question 30

Please identify any COAG decisions during 2013-14 or 2014-15 which had not been anticipated in the State budget but which impacted on your entity's finances or activities during those years (including new funding agreements, discontinued agreements and changes to agreements). Please quantify the impact on income and expenses where possible.

COAG decision	Impact in 2013-14		Impact in 2014-15	
	on income (\$ million)	on expenses (\$ million)	on income (\$ million)	on expenses (\$ million)
N/a				

SECTION H: Fiscal and financial management strategies (Department of Treasury and Finance only)***Question 31***

This question does not apply to your agency.

Question 32

This question does not apply to your agency.

SECTION I: Economic environment***Question 33 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)***

This question does not apply to your agency.

Question 34 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)

This question does not apply to your agency.

Question 35 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)

This question does not apply to your agency.

Question 36 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)

This question does not apply to your agency.

Question 37

Please identify any key economic variables for which there were variances in 2013-14 and 2014-15 between what was estimated in the initial budget for each year (**not** the revised estimate) and what actually occurred which had a significant impact on your department's/agency's finances, service delivery or asset investment. For each variance, please indicate:

- (a) what had been expected at budget time
- (b) what actually occurred
- (c) how the variance impacted on the budget outcomes (quantifying the impact where possible)
- (d) what decisions were made in response (including changes to service delivery, asset investment, borrowings etc.).

Expected economic result in 2013-14	Actual result in 2013-14	Impact of the variance on budget outcomes	Decisions made in response
Finance Charges \$77.1M	Finance Charges \$69.7M	Lower interest rates had a favourable impact on budget outcomes.	Refinanced borrowings

Expected economic result in 2014-15	Actual result in 2014-15	Impact of the variance on budget outcomes	Impact of the variance on service delivery
N/a			

SECTION J: Previous recommendations

Question 38 (departments only)

This question does not apply to your agency.