

Joint Select Committee on Energy Matters - Tuesday 10 March 2026: Questions on Notice

Question	Response
1. What was the connection fee paid by Hydro Tasmania to Basslink/APA Group in the financial year 2024-25 to access inter-regional settlement residues?	<p>In 2024-25, Hydro Tasmania paid a bundled fee to Basslink in exchange for rights to the inter-regional revenues (IRRs) and the requirement that Basslink operate as open link. The amount therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not represent an amount paid for access to the IRRs alone; • remains commercially sensitive to Hydro Tasmania due to upcoming Basslink settlement residue auctions (SRAs) – although not directly representing an amount paid for the IRRs alone, disclosing the amount publicly would nonetheless provide our competitors in the SRAs some degree of insight into how we may bid.
2. Has Hydro Tasmania modelled catchment inflows into your storages in volume over time into the future under a range of different climate scenarios and, if so, can that be released to the Committee for scrutiny?	<p>Hydro Tasmania has modelled catchment inflows in volume over time under a range of climate scenarios through the TULIP model. The accompanying data provides these projections by catchment.</p> <p>It is important to note that Hydro Tasmania's system is managed as an integrated portfolio with water transferred to optimise generation across the whole system. Looking at inflow data at the individual catchment level in isolation would not accurately represent the way the system operates or the energy available from it.</p> <p>The system-level yield in GWh is the operationally meaningful metric because it reflects the actual energy available after accounting for transfers, losses, evaporation and operational constraints, which is ultimately what determines generation capacity, revenue and energy security for Tasmania.</p>
3. In Hydro Tasmania's paper, "System Yield Projections", tabled at the hearing, it states that the Trend and Uncertainty in Long Inflow Predictions ('TULIP') model, developed with the CSIRO, was used to inform long term inflow projections. The paper says 'this allows TULIP to produce ensembles and more realistic projections of	<p>The TULIP is a statistical model, developed in partnership with CSIRO, that is fitted to more than a century of historical inflow, storage and streamflow data across all catchments. Hydro Tasmania manages the modelling inputs and outputs to generate a range of possible future inflow sequences. These historical data form the key inputs to the model and have been provided.</p> <p>The model uses this data to project historical trends, which are best aligned with the RCP 4.5 climate scenario, adopted as our central case because it best reflects current national and international policy settings. Sensitivity</p>

<p>future floods and droughts, enabling Hydro Tasmania to better plan for the long-range sustainability of this system'. Could you please provide the inflow information, assumptions, and inputs used in the TULIP model?</p>	<p>testing has also been undertaken against a higher emissions scenario (RCP 8.5). Under that scenario, analysis by the UTAS Climate Futures project indicates that a decline of 25 GWh/year would continue until the end of the century, with meaningful differences appearing only after 2050.</p> <p>Rather than producing a single forecast, the model generates a range of possible future inflow sequences. These outputs have been provided as monthly data and include different weather conditions, including extended drought sequences. The model also captures the clustering of dry years, including sequences more severe than those recently observed. These are reflected in the corporate planning scenarios and investment cases to ensure financial resilience is not dependent on a single climate outcome.</p>
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