

PUBLIC SECTOR — INVOLUNTARY REDUNDANCIES

719. Ms A. SANDERSON to the Minister for Water:

I refer to this government's voluntary targeted separation scheme and recent criticism by the Leader of the National Party.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how redundancies at the Water Corporation were implemented by the former Minister for Water during the last term of the Liberal–National government?
- (2) How does this contrast with this government's proposal?

Mr D.J. KELLY replied:

I thank the member for Morley for her question. She is an absolutely outstanding representative for the constituents of Morley.

- (1)–(2) On Tuesday in this house the Leader of the National Party asked some questions about the voluntary severance scheme put forward by this government. She asked some questions with a tone about her that implied that she was concerned about the possibility of involuntary severances.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, please! Watch your tone, minister.

Mr D.J. KELLY: What surprised me is that she had an opportunity in government to deal with these matters. What was her record? The trouble for someone like the Leader of the National Party is that she can come in here and say she is concerned about involuntary severances, but she has a record. Members opposite have a record. People know what they did when they were in government. They are found out by their record.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members of the National Party! There are not many, but you are making a lot of noise.

Mr D.J. KELLY: Let us just look at the record of the previous government and the Minister for Water.

The SPEAKER: Members, you asked a question. Please, just listen to the answer.

Mr D.J. KELLY: Let us just look at the record of the former Minister for Water when she was dealing with these matters. From June 2013 to January 2016, the Water Corporation lost 478 full-time equivalent employees. Not all those were voluntary severances.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party!

Mr D.J. KELLY: In 2015 and 2016, 230 involuntary severances at the Water Corporation were overseen by the current Leader of the National Party.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party!

Mr D.J. KELLY: There were 230 compulsory redundancies put in place by the —

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: I have warned you twice! Leader of the National Party, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr D.J. KELLY: I say to opposition members that when they come in here, by all means criticise us for things that we do, but they should not pretend to have positions that they do not have. They should not pretend to be opposed to compulsory redundancies when they have a track record of doing exactly that.

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Moore!

Mr D.J. KELLY: They should not pretend because they will be found out by their record. In 2015 and 2016, at the Water Corporation alone, there were 230 involuntary severances. I say to the opposition, "Do your job. Do the hard work. But don't come in here and pretend that you are opposed to things that you are not." When the former Premier, the member for Cottesloe, said that the former cabinet lacked horsepower, he was clearly looking at the two former Ministers for Water that he had to endure. They clearly were not up to the job. They should not come into this place pretending to be the friends of public sector workers when their own track records show 230 compulsory redundancies during their term.