

WATER CORPORATION — STANDPIPES — CHARGES

798. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Water:

Recently, the Water Corporation advised local governments that fees for the use of standpipes will increase significantly at great expense to local government. Standpipes are used for firefighting and emergency stock watering purposes.

- (1) Has the Minister for Agriculture and Food or the Minister for Emergency Services raised this issue with the Minister for Water?
- (2) Is the minister concerned that the Water Corporation's decision will have negative impacts on firefighting and emergency stock watering?
- (3) Will the minister direct the Water Corporation to overturn its decision to ensure that standpipes are not locked by local government to prevent excessive charges?

Mr D.J. KELLY replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(3) Increases in charges by the Water Corporation go through the normal budgetary process. Obviously, I am not going to divulge any of the discussions we have had as part of that process. I have not had any concerns raised with me by local government or anyone else in respect of changes to pricing from the Water Corporation and how they might affect firefighting or anything else. If the member has any specific concerns, I am happy for the member to raise them with me and I will have a look at them.