

DESALINATION PLANT, KWINANA, COST

70. Hon Barry House to the Leader of the House representing the Premier.

In regard to the construction and ongoing operation of the proposed desalination plant to be built in Kwinana, I ask that the Premier please provide the following information -

- (a) the total cost of capital construction;
- (b) an itemised and costed breakdown of the major capital costs associated with the construction of the plant;
- (c) the total recurrent cost of operation per year, including ongoing requirements for the purchase of renewable energy;
- (d) an itemised and costed breakdown of the major recurrent costs associated with the operation of the plant;
- (e) the total number and annual cost of staff required to operate the plant on an ongoing basis;
- (f) whether staff need to be recruited from overseas to operate the plant;
- (g) whether staff need to receive training in a foreign country in order to operate the plant;
- (h) what amount has been allocated for ongoing maintenance on the plant;
- (i) the expected operational life of the plant;
- (j) the scope for expansion of the plant;
- (k) where the 24 megawatts of electricity required to power the desalination plant will be drawn from;
- (l) the estimated annual cost of purchasing 24 megawatts of renewable energy at current prices;
- (m) who the \$11.7 million allocated for renewable energy purchases will be paid to;(n) what work had been undertaken for the planting of up to 8 000 hectares of trees, as per the original plan to offset greenhouse gas emissions;
- (n) what work had been undertaken for the planting of up to 8 000 hectares of trees, as per the original plan to offset greenhouse gas emissions;
- (o) what is the total estimated cost of planting 8 000 hectares of trees, including land purchase, land leasing and other associated costs;
- (p) what action has been taken to protect for any possible interruption of electricity supplied through the South West Interconnected System due to blackouts;
- (q) the predicted annual quantity of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the operation of the plant;
- (r) the volume, in tonnes, of hyper saline water to be discharged into the ocean; and
- (s) the location of where this hyper saline water will be discharged and the impact of this discharge on the marine environment?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

- (a) \$387 million, including downstream infrastructure.
- (b) \$323 million for the desalination plant and \$64 million for downstream infrastructure. Further breakdown is not available as it is commercial in confidence. This information is the contractors' intellectual property.
- (c) Anticipated to average \$19M per year.
- (d) The major components of the recurrent operating costs are power, chemicals, labour and asset replacement. Specific costing is commercial in confidence, as it is the contractors' intellectual property.
- (e) 16 staff are required to operate the plant and the cost associated is included in the \$19m per year.
- (f) It is not expected to have to recruit overseas staff.
- (g) It is not expected that staff will need training from a foreign country in order to operate the plant.
- (h) See (c) above.
- (i) A minimum of 25 years.
- (j) At this stage there are no plans to expand the desalination plant at this site.
- (k) The Water Corporation is currently negotiating a renewable energy contract to power the desalination plant.

- (l) This is currently being negotiated.
- (m) This is currently being negotiated.
- (n) As the plant will be using a renewable energy source, a tree planting program to sequester the greenhouse gas emissions will not be necessary.
- (o) See above.
- (p) The plant is being built to be protected against sudden power outages.
- (q) Nil.
- (r) It is estimated that 180,000 tonnes will be discharged per day.
- (s) The water will be discharged via diffusers into Cockburn Sound.