

HARVEY DAM

**220. Mr J.P.D. EDWARDS to the Premier:**

I refer the Premier to a report in the 15 October edition of the *Harvey Reporter* that states -

A visit to the Harvey Dam by Premier Geoff Gallop last Wednesday has thrown the Water Corporation, Perth media and the public into confusion over plans to pump another 15 gigalitres of water into the ailing Perth supply.

- (1) Can the Premier confirm that he made the announcement at Harvey Dam about this latest plan to solve the water crisis when in fact there are no plans to use water from the Harvey Dam for Perth water supplies?
- (2) Can the Premier also confirm that neither the Water Corporation nor the Shire of Harvey was aware of his visit until the morning of the announcement, and the local member was not informed of the announcement at all?
- (3) Is it true, as quoted in the *Harvey Reporter*, that the Water Corporation was confused about the Premier's plan?

**Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:**

- (1)-(3) I was with officers from the Water Corporation when I announced that plan, which involves mixing water from the Wellington and Stirling Dams, because, as we all know, there have been improvements in the Wellington Dam over the years as a result of steps taken to deal with the salinity problem in that area. The proposal will provide about 15 gigalitres of water for Perth and the goldfields. It is a proposal and it was presented as a proposal, because obviously it will need to go through the Environmental Protection Authority, and consultation is also taking place with the community. The Harvey Dam water will be used for the south west irrigation scheme. I do not know what that article is getting at. I made it clear in my statement that we are talking about mixing water from the Stirling and Wellington Dams; and because the Harvey Dam water is available for the south west, it is now possible to use that Stirling-Wellington water for the Perth and goldfields scheme. I cannot understand the point of the member's question. Water Corporation officers were with me on the day that I announced the proposal. It is a positive proposal that the Government thinks has merit and will help make a contribution towards meeting the water needs of Perth and the goldfields.