WATER DEFICIENCY DECLARATIONS

1041.   Hon RICK MAZZA to the minister representing the Minister for Water:

I refer to Denmark, which has one of the highest average rainfalls in the state, but now requires the construction of a $32 million water pipeline from Albany.

(1)   Are there any other WA towns at risk of water deficiency as summer approaches?

(2)   If yes to (1), what are these towns and how much longer are their reserves expected to last?

(3)   How are water deficient regions such as Ravensthorpe, Lake Grace and Hollands Rock coping since they have been officially declared?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I expect to see the member at the climate rally tomorrow, given his concern! The Minister for Water has provided the following information.

(1)   Yes.

(2)   The Water Corporation is currently carting water to supplement town water supplies in Ravensthorpe and Salmon Gums, and will do so until the local dams refill. The corporation recently ceased carting to the Jerramungup scheme, and is currently supplying water from the local dam. The levels in the dam will be monitored and it is estimated there is sufficient water available until April 2020.

(3)   Water carting has ceased in Mallee Hill in the Shire of Lake Grace and Hollands Rock in the Shire of Kent as farmers have advised they have sufficient on-farm water for livestock. Water is still being carted to Mt Short in the Shire of Ravensthorpe, at reduced cartage volumes, to support farmers in the area. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, in cooperation with the Water Corporation and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, will continue to consult with farmers in all three water deficiency declared areas to assess livestock water needs. If required, the existing water deficiency declarations will allow water carting to resume quickly to support in-need farmers in these areas.