

WATER CORPORATION — ASSET INVESTMENT PROGRAM

816. Mr D.J. KELLY to the Minister for Water:

I refer to statements in the Water Corporation's "Strategic Development Plan 2014/15–2018–19", which was accidentally tabled by the minister in August this year, that the Water Corporation's capital program is \$954 million below what is necessary. I quote from the report —

Any further reductions in this capital budget may place the Corporation at an unacceptable level of risk of asset or regulatory failure.

Given this clear warning, how can the government responsibly impose a further five per cent or \$132 million reduction to the Water Corporation's asset investment program, as announced last week as part of the Premier's \$2 billion package of cuts to deal with his government's mismanagement of state debt?

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

I thank the member for the question. The Water Corporation is not immune to the decisions that the government is making across the board to ensure that we are managing the budget responsibly, and it is subject to the application of the same efficiencies. We are requiring the Water Corporation to find some of those efficiencies within its budget. I can guarantee that there will no reduction in the services provided to the community; we will continue to deliver a very high quality product in water and sewerage services to our customers. In this financial year, there will be no changes to the price that our customers are currently charged. The corporation operates to the very highest of operating standards and it is continually operating within those standards, so I can guarantee that we will be able to meet the requirements of our asset infrastructure plan going forward, maintaining a quality service and delivering quality water and sewerage services to the community.