

SOUTHERN SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT

674. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the minister representing the Minister for Water:

I refer to the media statement of 1 August in the name of the minister and the Premier about the expansion of the southern seawater desalination plant.

- (1) What projects will be reprioritised by the Water Corporation to meet the \$300 million allocation for the southern seawater desalination plant from its budget?
- (2) Why was the southern seawater desalination plant expansion and its funding mix not included in the 2011–12 budget papers or mentioned at estimates hearings?
- (3) If the southern seawater desalination plant expansion will now cost \$450 million, which was calculated by the minister in the media as \$400 million for the plant and \$50 million for the pipeline, can the minister explain —
 - (a) exactly how much pipeline will be constructed for \$50 million;
 - (b) where will the pipeline start and finish;
 - (c) what is the capacity of the proposed pipeline; and
 - (d) will the proposed pipeline run at full capacity following commissioning of the expanded desalination plant?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The Water Corporation, the minister and Treasury are reviewing projects within the Water Corporation's \$3.6 billion capital works program.
- (2) The decision to proceed was not made until after the 2011–12 budget.
- (3)
 - (a) There will be 26.9 kilometres constructed. The actual cost will be determined through the tendering process.
 - (b) The pipeline will be constructed between Harvey and Pinjarra. The exact location will be finalised through the final design process.
 - (c) The proposed pipeline will assist in lifting the capacity of the southern trunk main to 100 gigalitres a year.
 - (d) Yes.