

WATER CORPORATION — “STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN”

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

I have a supplementary question. Will the minister rule out a six per cent increase in water charges next year?

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

The information that the member is referring to is in the budget papers. It is referred to as a statement that for planning purposes we are looking at a six per cent increase across the forward estimates. Water prices are set every year, as part of the budget process, and they always have been. I remind the member that, under the previous Labor government, Eric Ripper, as the Treasurer indicated to the public of Western Australia that we were on a price path that is not dissimilar to the one that this government is taking. I have it in writing. There is no huge revelation here. For planning purposes, we have indicated that there is a six per cent increase in water charges in the state budget. I think Paul Murray referred to it as a Sunday special, and it indicated that the member really had not done his homework, and thought he had discovered something that the rest of the state was already aware of.