

WATER CORPORATION — 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

**748. Mr D.J. KELLY to the Minister for Water:**

I have a supplementary question. The minister knows that the concession figure she gave is taken into account by the figure I gave her. The \$335 million is the net accrual to government. We have record numbers of Western Australians who cannot pay their water bills. When is the government going to stop price gouging to fix its budget mismanagement?

**Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:**

The member is saying that we are unresponsive to some of the challenges we face. When this state government frames its budget, we take into consideration the impact we have on household budgets and what we need to be able to deliver a safe and reliable service. In this year's state budget, the price path was 4.5 per cent. Last year's state budget stated we would raise the price path by six per cent, so we have absolutely responded to some of those challenges.

[Interruption from the gallery.]

**The SPEAKER:** I want to remind people in the gallery that no photography is allowed in this chamber. Please do not take any photographs.

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** We always take into consideration the impact that we have on households and we balance that with the fact that we have to deliver a safe and reliable service to a significant number of customers across this very large state. That \$335 million will be delivered back into the community for the benefit of the community. If people in this community have difficulty paying their water bills, there are things that we can assist them with. I suggest that they call the Water Corporation and we will work it out with them.