

WATER CORPORATION — ASSET SALE

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

I have a supplementary question. Does the minister now regret describing on radio the 150 job losses as a compassionate decision, when all the staff I speak to talk about it as a kick in the guts?

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

The member is referring to an interview I did about this matter, I think, at the beginning of this year or last year.

Mr D.J. Kelly: No; it was two weeks ago.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: It was not two weeks ago.

It is a compassionate decision by the Water Corporation, because of the way it is putting this out to the market. Some people who currently work for the Water Corporation may have a small number of jobs to do for the immediate future because, as I have said, we are moving from a significant investment in construction to one of operation and maintenance.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: That is right; absolutely. If it packaged it up into a process whereby somebody takes on that business, they will have the opportunity to continue to work for longer than they would have at the Water Corporation. I think that is compassionate. It is providing them with ongoing job security. Some people will come out of this process without a job. The Water Corporation is behaving entirely appropriately and is managing its employees very compassionately. I know it is, and the member would be aware of it because unions have been involved in this process.