

WATER QUALITY — TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS LEVELS

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

I refer to the recently released Water Corporation document titled “Drinking Water Quality Annual Report 2010–11”, which revealed that of the 52 midwest sites tested for total dissolved solids levels, only 10 met the minimum requirements as specified by the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

- (1) What are the minimum TDS requirements for Australian drinking water?
- (2) Which 10 sites meet the required levels and what is the TDS level for each?
- (3) What action is the government taking to address the unsatisfactory TDS levels in the remaining 42 testing locations?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. I am conscious that this question refers to a website. If this answer is not satisfactory, I am more than happy to get the specific information the member is looking for.

- (1) This information is publicly available on the web. Please refer to the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.
- (2) This information is publicly available on the web. Please refer to the Water Corporation’s “Drinking Water Quality Annual Report”.
- (3) Supplying safe drinking water is the Water Corporation’s highest priority. In 2010–11, the corporation achieved outstanding results for health-related characteristics and met all health targets for drinking water quality as set by the Department of Health.