

WATER CORPORATION — REGIONAL CUSTOMER SERVICES GROUP — EMPLOYEES

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

I have a supplementary question. I will ask the minister again: did she or anyone else in the government make any assessment of the economic and social impact of these job losses on regional centres before they were implemented; and, if not, why not?

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

We take into consideration these decisions very seriously. We take these seriously. It is people's lives. We understand that. But I am charged, as the Minister for Water, and the Water Corporation is charged, with delivering a very high quality service to everyone in this state. As a consequence, some of the decisions, yes, have impacted on jobs in regional Western Australia. They have impacted on jobs in the metropolitan area as well. This is about making sure that we are continuing to deliver a reliable, quality product —

Point of Order

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: The member for Bassendean asked a very specific question. It was whether or not there had been any assessment of the economic and social consequences of the job losses. I am hoping that we can get a quick answer to that supplementary.

The SPEAKER: Minister.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: It would be quicker if I was not interrupted, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Minister, carry on.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms M.J. DAVIES: One of the changes that we have had to put in place is job losses at the Water Corporation. As I said, we have been very up-front about that.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany, I call you to order now for the first time.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I was very clear with the organisation that it needed to make sure we had people on the ground on the tools to make sure that we were not impacting our ability to deliver those services. As a consequence of some of the changes and the changing nature of the projects we are delivering going forward, there have been job losses.