

WATER SUPPLY — DENMARK

116. Hon DIANE EVERS to the minister representing the Minister for Water:

I refer to the minister's media statement on 9 September 2019 regarding the Denmark water supply.

- (1) What alternative options were considered for increasing the supply, and why were they not chosen?
- (2) What is the standard practice for community engagement/consultation when making significant decisions regarding a town's water supply?
- (3) What studies have been done on the impact on the Albany aquifer and the long-term water security for Albany residents; and —
 - (a) will the minister please table a copy of any relevant reports?
- (4) Will the minister please table any environmental impact and flora and fauna studies conducted along the proposed pipeline route; and —
 - (a) if not, why not?

Hon DARREN WEST replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Water, I provide the following answer.

- (1) A suite of options for the augmentation of Denmark town water supply was considered, including large dams, local groundwater sources, local seawater desalination and raising Quickup Dam.
- (2) The Water Corporation is committed to community engagement and provides opportunities for the public to provide input to decisions about planned projects. The Water Corporation consulted extensively with the Denmark community in 2010 about future Denmark water supplies.
- (3) All water used from the Albany groundwater resource will be within allocation limits, determined through science and modelling, and incorporating future climate projections. The department is preparing a new allocation plan for the area which will be published when completed.
 - (a) Not applicable.
- (4) Various environmental studies have been completed for the Denmark pipeline. The reports are still being finalised by the consultants, but will be publicly available once all external approvals for the project are in place. The proposed pipeline route is fully along existing firebreaks, road reserves and open paddocks, and there are limited impacts on vegetation.
 - (a) Once the environmental studies have been completed, they will be made available on the Index of Biodiversity Surveys for Assessments—IBSA—website.