

WATER RESOURCES - REGIONAL TOWNS

69. Hon MARGARET ROWE to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) What is the weekly cost of transporting water by road from the Waggrakine standpipe in Geraldton to Northampton?
- (2) Is the government considering increasing the Waterwise rebates available from the Water Corporation for households in regional towns subject to water shortages; and, if so, by what amount?
- (3) Is the government undertaking a feasibility study to determine additional sources of water for Northampton; and, if so, what are those options?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Tankering the water from Geraldton to Northampton was carried out for only three days. The total cost to transport the water was around \$27 000. The tankering of water to Northampton was an interim arrangement to ensure that the reserve storage for the town was maintained.
- (2) No.
- (3) Yes. The Water Corporation has initiated a review of current planning for Northampton's water supply. The review includes assessment of water source options, such as adjacent ground water areas and piping water from the Geraldton water supply, a distance of some 50 kilometres.