

WATER CORPORATION— SERVICE CHARGES

332. Mr V.A. CATANIA to the Minister for Water:

I have a supplementary question. Can the minister explain to the owners of a motel in regional Western Australia why he allows the Water Corporation to continue charging them \$7 746 per billing, per period, for 73 toilets—that is \$46 000 a year—in addition to water in and water out charges when occupancy is sitting between five and 10 per cent?

Mr D.J. KELLY replied:

I am not sure what more I can say to the member for North West Central. He should understand how the system works. Accommodation providers pay more for their sewerage charges, basically based on the size of their property. The more room they have, the more they pay. That is exactly the way the National Party charged for those services in Carnarvon when he was in government. To not do that, to charge all businesses the same, regardless of the number of fixtures they have, would mean an increase in wastewater charges for every other business. If he wants the little cafes in Carnarvon —

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warren–Blackwood, I am sure you will be a very good radio commentator when you finish, but not here.

Mr D.J. KELLY: If accommodation services, seasonal businesses, produce a peak flow, the wastewater system has to be able to cope with peak flows.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr D.J. KELLY: Members opposite in the National Party know that this is exactly how the system operated when they were in government. They know that if we do not charge this way, it will mean that every other business in town will have to have its charges increased. If that is what the member for North West Central wants, he should write to me and we will look at it.