

YARRAGADEE AQUIFER, STUDIES ON ABSTRACTION OF WATER

512. Mr J.P.D. Edwards to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

- (1) With regard to the planned abstraction of water from the Yarragadee aquifer, what studies are currently underway or planned that will ensure the effects of abstraction can be understood and predicted over the next decade?
- (2) What funding is currently available to ensure adequate research is undertaken that relates to the management of water abstracted from the Yarragadee aquifer?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS replied:

- (1) Since July 1999 the Water and Rivers Commission and the Water Corporation have been jointly working on a computerised model of the aquifer systems (including the Yarragadee aquifer) underlying the Perth Metropolitan Area. This model will enable the effects of abstraction from the various aquifers to be studied and the effects of alternative groundwater draw to be predicted and optimised.
- (2) The Water and Rivers Commission and the Water Corporation are both contributing to research and development related projects of aquifers and groundwater. This financial year, an amount of \$3,524,000 has been budgeted for environmental and social investigations and direct input into research on Perth's regional aquifer system through groundwater modelling and aquifer response analysis.

The Water and Rivers Commission and the Water Corporation are also currently preparing a project plan for investigation and management of the South West Yarragadee water resources.