

YARRAGADEE AQUIFER - WELLINGTON DAM

164. Hon NIGEL HALLETT to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Water Resources:

In response to question without notice 115, I was advised that the findings for the Collie-Wellington basin water source options steering committee on the feasibility of different water resource development options in the Collie-Wellington catchment were still to be presented and made publicly available. In the *Collie Mail* dated 8 February 2007, the Minister for Water Resources quoted an indicative cost of \$800 million to fund major works to enable Wellington Dam to be used as a potable water resource. Given that the committee has not yet presented its findings to the minister -

- (1) How was the \$800 million estimate calculated?
- (2) How many, if any, external consultants were involved in the costing process?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) This was developed by the Department of Water to give a broad estimate for guidelines on how much it would cost to develop the Collie-Wellington basin as a water source.
- (2) The minister is aware of at least one external consultant being involved in the preparation of water resource development options for the steering committee. However, until he receives the report, he is unable to confirm that.