

WATER — PERTH AND INTERCONNECTED SYSTEM — DROUGHTPROOFING

383. Mr D.J. KELLY to the Minister for Water:

I have a supplementary question. I am sure that the minister will accept that droughtproofing Perth is more complicated than turning on a tap, and I ask: does the Water Corporation —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members! I want to hear the question. I do not want the wall of noise. Member, repeat that question please.

Mr D.J. KELLY: Does the board of the Water Corporation support the minister's claim that she has droughtproofed Perth?

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

Ask me again and I will say the same thing. I am sorry that I did not mention demand management before but that continues to be an important part of the process—and has been for some time. It is embedded right throughout the Water Corporation's business on a daily basis. Yes, the Water Corporation agrees that we have made the appropriate investment to make sure that Western Australia, Perth and the interconnected system —

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Bassendean!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I would accept the member's argument if we were in a crisis, and if we go back five or 10 years, we were. There was a time in Western Australia with a drying climate and a rapidly growing population that we were facing a real crisis. We have invested appropriately. We continue to invest appropriately to make sure that we have a safe, secure and reliable source of water for Western Australians.