

WATER-SAVING PROGRAMS — FUNDING

80. Mr D.T. REDMAN to the Minister for Water:

I have a supplementary question. The minister cut \$50 million in water and climate change resilience programs. In light of the drought situation, when can we expect to see the minister's government present a statewide drought action plan?

Mr D.J. KELLY replied:

Did the member for Warren–Blackwood say that we have cut \$50 million?

Mr D.T. Redman: Yes, \$50 million in water rebate schemes.

Mr D.J. KELLY: What a complete misrepresentation. We have certainly not done that. As I have just indicated to the member, we have funded more community water projects in that region than he did in the whole eight and a half years he was in government. As I said, we have got the departments working together for the first time with local government. Local governments are now coming to us and asking whether we can advocate to the federal government on their behalf. As I said, \$15 million was spent by the federal government on water policy issues and two per cent of that came to WA. If it is Bob Katter's electorate, National Party ministers hand over the money. As a National Party member, the member for Warren–Blackwood should hang his head in shame. He has all those relevant ministries federally and very little of that money comes to WA. When it is spent in WA, it gets it wrong. The amount of \$34 million was spent on community drought relief, but not a cent went to the southern rangelands. The member should hang his head in shame. We are getting on with doing the job and I think the people of the wheatbelt and the great southern appreciate it. They would like more done, as they always will, but we are getting on and doing the job.