

SALINITY, BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT

678. Mr R.N. SWEETMAN to the Premier:

As a supplementary question, will the Premier now concede that the reason Western Australia is the rogue State in a national agreement and has not received commonwealth salinity funding is because he refuses to fulfil the terms of the national agreement?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

That is absolutely wrong. We are fulfilling the terms of the agreement and we have put money on the table. I have a challenge for the member for Ningaloo. He should look at some of the water quality programs in the eastern States and then tell me how they are different from the programs that we are proposing in Western Australia. He will find there is no difference at all. We are not a rogue State, but there is certainly a rogue Commonwealth when it comes to commonwealth-state relations.