

WATER CORPORATION, UNDERWOOD AVENUE BUSHLAND

838. Mr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage:

I refer the minister to the potential legal battle between the University of Western Australia and the Water Corporation about a proposed residential development on Underwood Avenue bushland, which forms an essential buffer zone around the Water Corporation's waste water treatment plant.

- (1) What will be the approximate cost of any such legal action to the Western Australian taxpayer, including the cost of a ruling against the Water Corporation?
- (2) Given the likely significant cost of the Water Corporation's involvement in any legal dispute with the university, is the minister taking an active role in finding a solution to this problem; and, if not, why not?

Dr EDWARDS replied:

- (1)-(2) I will explain. Due to last year's restructure of the agencies, I no longer have responsibility for the Water Corporation. I have responsibility for the Water and Rivers Commission and the Office of Water Regulation.

Mr Barnett: Have you visited the site recently?

Dr EDWARDS: No. I visited the site slightly under a year ago.

Mr Barnett: Did you visit the waste treatment plant and smell the odours?

Dr EDWARDS: I have visited the waste water treatment plant.

Mr Barnett: Have you visited the Underwood Avenue bushland?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! I suggest that the member perhaps redirect the question to the appropriate minister at the next question time.