

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION  
AND WATER CORPORATION — STAFF RECOGNITION**

*Statement by Minister for Water*

**MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean — Minister for Water)** [12.12 pm]: I rise to recognise the efforts of staff at the Water Corporation and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation in response to recent incidents, including bushfires, cyclones and reduced rainfall. For example, during the recent large bushfire threatening the Katanning township, the power supply was cut to Pinwernying Dam. The Water Corporation's Katanning crew was called into action and quickly set up a mounted generator as an interim power source, before arranging the transport of a much larger truck-mounted generator. By the following day the crew had the new power source up and running, enabling the dam to function at full capacity. These efforts ensured the dam was made available for the Air Crane water bomber to make 17 pickups totalling 90 440 litres of water to fight the fires. This fast action occurred while several team members had to contend with evacuating their families as their homes came under direct threat from fire. I wish to thank them for working tirelessly to ensure water supplies remained available.

I would also like to thank staff working on the response to ex-tropical cyclone Damien. The staff conducted aerial inspections to check for damage to crucial infrastructure and carried out minor emergency repairs. The customer impact appears to be minimal, with just a few customers affected—quite remarkable considering the severity of the weather.

Lastly, I wish to thank staff responding to the increased demands on our regional schemes as communities across the south of Western Australia are feeling the full effects of climate change, with little to no rainfall. About 11 million litres of drinking water has been carted each week to Cranbrook, Grass Patch, Hyden, Lake King, Varley, Rocky Gully, Wellstead, Salmon Gums, Ravensthorpe and Walpole. The department has also done an incredible job supporting farming communities in dryland agricultural areas. In the last year alone, this has included managing seven water deficiency declarations, and the development and upgrading of 34 community water supplies and government-owned water sources.

We have incredible staff at both the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and the Water Corporation who work tirelessly in the background to look after Western Australia's water supplies. Thank you to all staff for your incredible ongoing efforts.