

MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES, APPOINTMENT

513. Mr J.P.D. Edwards to the Premier

With regard to the recommendation by delegates at the Water Symposium that called on the Government to raise the profile of the Water portfolio in Cabinet, I ask the Premier -

- (a) will the Government give greater recognition to the significance of water resource management within Cabinet and appoint a Minister for Water Resources;
- (b) if yes to (a), when will this recognition and its consequential changes in Cabinet take place; and
- (c) if no to (a), why not?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

- (a) In the term of this Government, water resource management has been recognised in Cabinet as an area of high significance. The Premier chairs a Task Force which includes the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, the Deputy Premier, the Minister for Government Enterprises and the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure. Currently, the Minister for the Environment and Heritage has the portfolio responsibility for water resource management through the Acts administered by the Water and Rivers Commission and the Office of Water Regulation. The Government is currently considering the recommendations of the Water Symposium including Recommendation 21 on this issue.
- (b) Answered in Question (a).
- (c) Answered in Question (a).