

DEPARTMENT OF WATER — CHANGE OF FOCUS

646. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Environment:

I refer the minister to an article from yesterday's *The West Australian* titled "Water agency quits as watchdog".

- (1) Was the minister aware of the Department of Water's change of focus; and, if so, when was she made aware?
- (2) What does this mean for the role of the Department of Environment and Conservation?
- (3) Will DEC be required to pick up the slack; and, if so, will it be provided with extra resources?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:

- (1)–(3) I thank the member for this question. Yes, I did see the article in yesterday's paper. No change is proposed to the responsibilities of the Department of Environment and Conservation. As I understand it, some of the comments made were specifically about the Swan River Trust, for which I, as Minister for Environment, have responsibility, but there is no expected change.