

“WATER FOR GROWTH URBAN WATER OUTLOOK 2050” — DROUGHTPROOFING

384. Mr D.J. KELLY to the Minister for Water:

I have a supplementary question. Minister, part of planning for the future is assessing where we are. This is the report. Can the minister tell me where the report states —

Mr J. Norberger interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Joondalup, I call you to order for the first time. Repeat your question, member for Bassendean.

Mr D.J. KELLY: Minister, part of planning for the future is assessing where we are. Can the minister tell me where in this report the minister’s claim is supported —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Wanneroo, I call you to order for the first time and I call the Leader of the National Party for the first time.

Mr D.J. KELLY: Can the minister tell us where in this report the minister’s claim that she has droughtproofed Perth is supported? Here is the report and the minister has it there: where does it state that? It is a simple question, minister.

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

We have had a number of questions on this, and I think I have explained it very well. This state government put together a plan, released while the current Minister for State Development was Minister for Water, around investing to ensure that we had climate independent sources and that we were managing the impact of a drying climate on the environment over a period of time. As a result, we have invested in desalination plants, we have brought online Australia’s first groundwater —

Mr D.J. Kelly: Where is it in the report, minister?

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I am answering the member’s question.

We have brought online Australia’s first groundwater replenishment scheme, and that will —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bassendean!

Mr D.T. Redman: You were going to pump it out of the Yarragadee.

Mr W.J. Johnston: Rubbish! That’s bullshit!

The SPEAKER: Oh, for God’s sake!

Several members interjected.

Withdrawal of Remark

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington, I want you to withdraw that, please.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: Sorry? I do not know what you said, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Can you please withdraw that?

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: I withdraw.

The SPEAKER: Right. I call you to order for the second time.

Questions without Notice Resumed

The SPEAKER: Continue, minister.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, let us get going! Premier, let us go!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I am trying to answer the question, Mr Speaker.

We have invested according to the plan laid out by this state government. We have invested in desalination and increasing our recycling. If members look at the state government’s record, they will see that we are reducing the amount of water we are taking from very environmentally sensitive areas and moving to deeper aquifers. We are looking at and continuing to manage our demand management. More than 50 per cent of our water is provided through desalination, meaning that the water available to the households under our current population in Perth is very much secure in that people can turn their taps on, have a shower and flush their toilet. We need to make

sure that our as our population continues to grow, we can not only manage the impacts of a drying climate, but also population growth. This state government is planning for growth. We are planning for growth, not just in the Department of Water and how we accommodate for that, but in every other department. That is what that document is about. It is about making sure that, from a secure base, we have the appropriate planning in place to ensure the security of water for this state.