

WATER CORPORATION — REBRANDING

395. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Water:

I have a supplementary question. Can the minister guarantee the public of Western Australia that the Water Corporation will not continue to waste public money in a similar way without his approval in the future?

Mr D.J. KELLY replied:

There is a whole range of accountability mechanisms in place. One of them is estimates. I am not sure whether the member has gone back and had a look at the contribution and performance of the alliance, as I think it is called now, during estimates. It was absolutely pathetic. The opposition had a couple of hours to quiz the government on all things to do with the Water Corporation. The member should rerun the tape and have a look at it; it is pretty appalling. The member can ask questions at estimates, he can ask questions, he has the annual reports and the Auditor General—all those mechanisms are in place.

As I say, if we look at what the Water Corporation does, we see that of all the capital cities, we have the lowest level of leaks and bursts. Look at the hardship programs that the Water Corporation has put in place compared with when the Leader of the Opposition was the Minister for Water and the former government restricted water to 2 500 families a year—that is 50 a week—because they could not pay their water bills. That is the opposition's track record when it was managing this portfolio. Compare that with what is happening on this side when we are in government. Nothing is ever perfect, but we are a damn sight better than when you were in government.