

WATER CORPORATION — FEES AND CHARGES

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

I have a supplementary question. I was interested in the minister's explanation, but could he please explain to the house how over-recovering on water charges is not a water tax; and, once again, what legislative authority does the Water Corporation have?

Mr D.J. KELLY replied:

If the member looks at the overall payments of the Water Corporation, there is still a significant subsidy. The Water Corporation does not over-recover, if the member looks across the full range of services that it provides. The community service obligation is somewhere between \$200 million and \$300 million just for country customers. I think there were seven Treasurers under the previous government. There were not quite as many Ministers for Water—most of them, if not all, did not sit in the Liberal Party. Maybe that is why there was not a lot of discussion between the Liberal Party and the then ministers. It is a similar situation that has been in place certainly since the 2013 ERA inquiry. We will consider those recommendations and, like every other government, will make our decisions accordingly at budget time.

The SPEAKER: That is the end of question time.