

“WATER FOR GROWTH: URBAN” WATER OUTLOOK 2050 — DROUGHTPROOFING

**383. Mr D.J. KELLY to the Minister for Water:**

I refer to the report the minister released yesterday on WA’s urban water needs out to 2050 and specifically that WA’s urban water demand will grow by up to 80 per cent, or 450 gegalitres, by 2050 despite improvements in water efficiency.

- (1) Does the minister now admit that she and the Treasurer were wrong to claim that they had droughtproofed Perth?
- (2) Given the serious water supply challenges that face WA, how does the minister justify taking over \$1 billion from the Water Corporation’s capital budget?
- (3) Is the minister not jeopardising WA’s future water supplies by taking record net payments from the Water Corporation to bolster the state’s worst budget?

**Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:**

- (1)–(3) It perplexes me a little bit that the member, who is the shadow Minister for Water, thinks that we are not going to continue to plan for the growth of this state and the metropolitan area. That is exactly what the document was about. The document is about exactly what the Department of Water and good government are supposed to do, which is to continue to make assumptions about growth in this state and plan for the future. That is exactly right.

**Mr D.J. Kelly** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bassendean, I call you to order for the second time.

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** For members who are not familiar with the report, it projects future water demand and supply by combining data related to current water use, water resources, economic growth and population forecasts. That is exactly what the people of Western Australia expect government to be doing. It lays out exactly where we think we need to be in making sure that we have appropriate water resources that are safe and secure for the future growth of this state. I absolutely think that is what the Department of Water is supposed to do. I do not understand why the member is concerned about us doing that kind of work. It does not make any sense to me. It is responsible planning to ensure that we make the appropriate investments as this state continues to grow to ensure that we can cater for economic and population growth, as well as managing the very challenging climate that we have here in this state.