

BUSSELTON WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT, INDUSTRIAL LIQUID WASTE

**709. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Government Enterprises:**

- (1) Does the Water Corporation receive industrial liquid waste from the wineries into the Busselton Waste Water Treatment Plant?
- (2) How can the Water Corporation perform this function at \$15 a kilolitre when the commercial rate is \$50 a kilolitre?
- (3) Why is this liquid industrial waste received into country waste water treatment plants when there is a policy prohibiting its receipt into metropolitan waste water treatment plants?

**Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question. This is an interesting question. I wonder on whose behalf it was asked.

The Water Corporation advises -

- (1) Yes. The Water Corporation accepts winery waste into the Busselton Waste Water Treatment Plant.
- (2) The corporation can provide the service at \$15 a kilolitre at Busselton due to the large scale of the operations and the benefits of economies of scale. I wonder where the honourable member gets his commercial scale of \$50 a kilolitre from.
- (3) There is no policy prohibiting receipt of winery waste at the corporation's waste water treatment plants.

This industry is very important to the south west, the area that the honourable member is elected to represent. Winery waste is the by-product of the crushing of the grapes. Its major treatment requirement is to remove exceptionally high biological oxygen demand concentration. I understand that if that high biological oxygen demand concentration went into the waterways in large doses, it would have an adverse affect on marine life. I am sure Hon Kim Chance would be concerned if that were to happen. I am also advised by the Water Corporation that there have been no complaints about this proper undertaking. However, one inquiry was received from a person associated with a competing winery waste treatment facility. I suppose that is where the \$50 a kilolitre comes from.