

WATER CORPORATION — ASSET SALE

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

- (1) Given that the Water Corporation board has cited the government's proposed asset sale program as a potential threat to its financial viability, and that the government has no public endorsement to sell Water Corporation assets, will the minister now rule out the sale of the Water Corporation's metropolitan desalination and wastewater treatment plants?
- (2) Will the minister now abandon her decision to sell the Water Corporation's engineering and construction division, with its 150 job losses?

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

- (1)–(2) The government has been very clear in this place, and outside, that the Water Corporation is not for sale, and will not be sold. The asset sales process is continuing, and that is something I will not comment on until it reaches its conclusion. In relation to the engineering services and construction division, I have explained to the member and made public statements to the effect that the organisation has shifted from a record level of investment. We have shifted from a significant construction period in which we have droughtproofed Perth and the interconnected system.

We are now shifting into an operation and maintenance mode. I assume that members opposite would not have us employing people who no longer have work to carry out. It is still a significant investment in our capital works going forward, but it is not at the level it has been at for the past 10 years, because we have worked very hard to droughtproof this state to make sure that when people turn on the tap, water comes out. No, I will not be considering that. That process has commenced, and I await an update from the Water Corporation on how that goes.