

WATER CORPORATION — ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES PRIVATISATION

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

I refer the minister firstly to comments made yesterday by the Leader of the National Party when he criticised the lack of transparency around the proposed privatisation of Fremantle port and, secondly, to the Minister for Water's answer to a question from the member for Albany yesterday about transparency around the Perth Stadium deal when she relied on ongoing negotiations to justify not releasing full details of that deal. Will the minister now release the full contract with RCR Tomlinson and the business case that supposedly supports the privatisation of the Water Corporation's engineering and construction services, given that that privatisation occurred eight months ago, in August 2015?

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

I cannot fathom why someone with this member's background continues to promote that we should have sacked every worker in the engineering and construction services branch instead of what we did, which was through a process, driven by the Water Corporation, to deliver ongoing employment for the people who were part of that branch. It is just unbelievable to me that he does not understand that the decision was made to sell the ECSB due to a number of changes in the workflow for that particular branch of the Water Corporation. Let me go back. I will refer to examples of the work that this branch did for the Water Corporation.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bassendean!

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** I refer to work that this branch carried out on behalf of the Water Corporation. It did pump stations, water mains, water tanks —

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warnbro, I call you to order for the second time. The member for Bassendean has a point of order.

*Point of Order*

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** My question was very specific. I asked the minister whether she will release the contract and the business case that supports the privatisation deal. It is very specific. Will she release the contract? Will she release the business case?

**The SPEAKER:** You have made your point. I do not want to hear anybody talking while there is a point of order.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** I go back to the fact that the decision was made by the board, in the context of a changing workflow for the organisation, that rather than see the demise of the employment of a large number of employees, the decision was made to put that out for an expression of interest. That outcome means that those employees have ongoing employment with another organisation. The opposition has asked numerous questions in the other place. We have provided information on the Water Corporation board's decision-making process and I am very confident that the right decision has been made in this space.