

WATER CORPORATION — FEES AND CHARGES

**833. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Water:**

I have a supplementary question.

**Ms S. Winton:** Give it another crack!

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** I will.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Wanneroo, I call you to order for the third time.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** When is the minister going to stop hurting Western Australian families with his \$400 tax on metropolitan households instead of his plan for 2.5 per cent year-on-year increases in the future?

**Mr D.J. KELLY replied:**

Member for Cottesloe, is it your policy to reduce water charges by \$400 for each family? Is that your policy?

**Dr D.J. Honey:** I asked you the question!

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** Is that your policy?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members on my left! Members!

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** Leader of the Opposition, is that your policy—to reduce water charges by \$400 per family in WA?

**Mrs L.M. Harvey:** You have no answer.

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** I am asking you. The member for Cottesloe is the shadow spokesperson for water. He is claiming we are overcharging by \$400.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, through the Chair, please.

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** Member for Cottesloe, is it your policy that you will reduce water charges by \$400?

**Dr D.J. Honey:** Answer the question. You are putting up charges.

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** You talk about the hardship that we are creating, or you claim we are creating, but the previous government cut off the water to 2 500 families every year because they could not pay their bills. I repeat: 2 500 families every year were getting their water turned off because they could not pay their bills. When we came into government, we asked the Water Corporation to change the way it dealt with families who were finding it difficult to pay their water bills. We have now reduced that number by over 60 per cent. We have introduced a raft of measures to make it easier for people to pay their water bills. Our track record is so much better than yours ever was and ever will be.

**The SPEAKER:** That is the end of question time.