

SCOTT RIVER BASIN GROUND WATER

3. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Government Enterprises:

- (1) Is the Water Corporation planning to feed ground water from the Scott River basin into the Perth water supply?
- (2) Has any announcement been made about this plan; and, if not, why not?
- (3) Is the amount of targeted water 200 gegalitres a year; and, if not, how much water is targeted?
- (4) Can the minister guarantee that the loss of this ground water will not endanger farm enterprises in the area, particularly the flourishing horticultural industry?

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The Water Corporation is investigating options for the development of water resources in the south west of the State for supply to the integrated scheme. This includes a proposal to abstract ground water from the Blackwood ground water management area, which includes the Scott coastal plain.
- (2) No. The proposal is at the very early stage of concept design.
- (3) No. The proposal is to abstract up to 60 gegalitres from the Blackwood ground water management area. This is about 50 per cent of the estimated sustainable ground water resource.
- (4) A comprehensive process will be followed under the direction of the Water and Rivers Commission to determine the water available in this region for supply to the integrated scheme. The process will include community consultation, environmental investigations and an evaluation of competing water needs, which should not result in any danger to farm enterprises.