

WATER — BURST MAINS PIPES

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

I have a supplementary question. Will the minister confirm that she has in fact cut the capital works budget for the Water Corporation, and is she saying that people will just have to learn to live with this level of disruption?

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

We have been over this so many times in this house. We had an inordinate —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I am answering the question, member!

Mr D.J. Kelly: Just answer it.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: An inordinate amount of investment went into our capital works programs. We were rebuilding the Pilbara. We were making investments where there had never previously been any investment. We had an investment in desalination plants. We have hit go on groundwater replenishment. There were a number of scheme adjustments and enhancements throughout the great southern and south west. A whole raft of projects was being run in the Perth metropolitan area. We have not continued to invest at that level because those investments have been made. For the capital works program, we have come back from an all-time high—yes. The member is talking about breaks and leaks, and that relates to asset renewals and maintenance. We have increased our asset renewals budget and we have increased our maintenance budget.