

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Tuesday, 27 November 2018]

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Dr David Honey; Mr David Templeman; Speaker; Mr Dave Kelly

COST OF LIVING — FEDERAL LABOR POLICY —
RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGET — WATER SUPPLY

995. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Water:

My question is to the Minister for Water —

Several members interjected.

Dr D.J. HONEY: He comes from an excellent period of graduates at the University of Western Australia.

The SPEAKER: Members, please. I am sure we are all waiting to hear this.

Dr D.J. HONEY: With bated breath. I refer to the article in Saturday's *The West Australian* in which the minister highlighted that the cabinet and caucus are keen to take serious action on climate change. Can the minister outline to the house how the Treasurer's decision not to adopt federal Labor's 50 per cent renewable energy target could impact Western Australia's water supply; and is this the reason that the unions want him stripped of the energy portfolio?

Point of Order

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: The question is clearly not to the portfolio of the minister to which it was directed.

The SPEAKER: It could impact on Water, but it is drawing a pretty long bow. I will let the minister answer the question.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr D.J. KELLY replied:

To be perfectly honest, I do not really understand the question that the member for Cottesloe is asking. We on this side of the house understand that climate change is having a very significant impact on water supplies here in Western Australia. Under the previous government, departments were not allowed to mention "climate change". None of the publications even acknowledged that climate change existed. When the Leader of the National Party was Minister for Water, she claimed to have drought-proofed Perth. Do members remember that? Just when we thought that was just a bit of National Party folly, the current Leader of the Opposition, when he was Treasurer, included that in one of his budget speeches. Job done! "Climate change no longer exists. We have drought-proofed Perth." We have a very considered policy over here. We understand that climate change is having a very significant impact on our water supply. That is one of the reasons that in the last budget we increased the rate of payments for water users who use more than 500 kilolitres. The top seven per cent of users in Western Australia use 17 per cent of water. With applause from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia, we sent a price signal to those high users. We on this side take this issue very seriously. If the member for Cottesloe has a question about energy policy, he should direct it to the relevant minister.