

LICENSED FARM DAMS, WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CHARGE

**1. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Premier:**

As a supplementary question, the Premier did not respond to my last question. Is it the Premier's intention to impose a tax on backyard bores in Perth?

**Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:**

The Government has absolutely no such intention; I have made that point on many occasions. The advice to the Government is that the incentive provided to the people of Western Australia to install bores is assisting the Government in its water policy to provide services for the metropolitan area.

Mr P.D. Omodei: We will have no tax in Perth, but a tax in the country.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: My friend, the Government has not announced any new taxes on water. The department is doing what it needs to do to look at the consequences of such measures throughout the community. It will report back to the Government on the implications and consequences, and then a decision will be made. The member for Warren-Blackwood can jump up and down all he likes, as he always does on such issues, but the Government is treating this issue in the same way it treats all issues: it is consulting the community so it knows the consequences and implications of the proposal should it decide to go down that path.

The water policies introduced to encourage people to take on conservation showerheads, front-end loading washing machines and bores have seen a tremendous response from the people of Western Australia. These policies were criticised by the Opposition. Members opposite do not think Western Australia has a water problem - they have their heads in the sand. The people of Western Australia disagree with members opposite. The community wants to work with the Government to bring about changes in this area, and it is doing so.