

STATE WATER CONSERVATION STRATEGY, COMPLETION

2327. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development representing the Minister for the Environment

- (1) Why has the Government failed to complete the State Water Conservation Strategy that was released for public comment more than two years ago?
- (2) Why is the Government emphasising new water supply options, such as the desalination plant and the Yarragadee aquifer rather than implementing this water conservation strategy?
- (3) Is the Government's primary concern to encourage people to use more water in order to maintain the income of the Water Corporation?
- (4) Has the Government signed or is it negotiating a contract with Hismelt to supply them with water from the desalination plant in Kwinana?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following response:

- (1) The key elements of the State Water Conservation Strategy were included in the State Water Strategy released in February 2003. These are: integrated resource planning and water use efficiency included in allocation and licensing; recycled water targets; water use targets; waterwise on the farm; legislation for showerheads and taps, information and rebates on efficiency measures for consumers; water efficient government buildings; and assistance for innovative technology in water conservation and use efficiency.
- (2) The State Water Strategy includes initiatives in water conservation and use efficiency, water re-use, innovation, research and education; improved water resource protection and management, as well as source development plans to increase the capacity of the integrated water supply system.
- (3) No.
- (4) The Water Corporation has contracts to supply Hismelt and other industries with desalted wastewater from the Woodman Point treatment plant. This is separate to the integrated water supply desalination proposal.