

DEPARTMENT OF WATER — WATER QUALITY

665. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Water:

- (1) How much is allocated by the Department of Water in this year's budget to servicing the environmental aspect of the desired outcome of ensuring sufficient water quality to support the needs of the community, environment and state's development?
- (2) From how much of this activity is the Department of Water planning to withdraw?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Consistent with the 2010–11 budget papers, the Department of Water's budget is allocated to meeting the desired outcome of sufficient quality of water to support the needs of the community, environment and state development. This is undertaken through the three services also identified in the budget papers. It is not possible to identify the specific allocation as requested, given the integrated nature of work undertaken across the Department of Water.
- (2) Despite the member's interpretation of a journalist's recent opinion, the minister has no plan to withdraw environmental services from the Department of Water. Our purpose is to support the state's economic and population growth, ensuring the right quality water is available to meet the needs now and for the future. In doing this, we clearly have a leadership role in water quality and in ensuring that water availability and quality is protected for the future, as well as for today. This gives us an ongoing role in protecting water, and we have no intention of stepping back from that.