

ORD RIVER HYDRO ENERGY PROJECT - PACIFIC HYDRO

741. Hon KEN BASTON to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Water Resources:

I refer to question without notice 694 and the Ord River Hydro Energy Project Agreement Act 1994.

- (1) In respect of clause 16 of the schedule to the act, under which provisions of the Water Authority Act and other relevant acts are the water requirements of the partnership obtained?
- (2) Does the water supply agreement referred to in the answer to question without notice 694 fall under clause 25(1) of the schedule to the act; and, if not, under which clause does the agreement fall?
- (3) Has the water supply agreement been subject to the scrutiny of Parliament; and, if so, when?
- (4) Given that water charges to agriculture, irrigators, industrial users and consumers are in the public domain, why do confidentiality provisions preclude the charges in this agreement being made public?
- (5) Is the cost of water the basis of the court case being brought against the government by the hydro-electric company?

Hon JON FORD replied:

On behalf of the Leader of the House, I thank the member for some notice of this question. The Minister for Water Resources has provided the following answer -

- (1)-(2) The terms of the agreement are contained in a water supply agreement between the Water Corporation and subsidiaries of Pacific Hydro Ltd. The terms of this agreement are the subject of legal proceedings, therefore, it is inappropriate to disclose the information requested. Furthermore, this agreement contains confidentiality provisions that prevent the Water Corporation from disclosing the information that the member has requested without the agreement of both parties.
- (3) No.
- (4)-(5) See answer to (1)-(2).