

WATER CORPORATION — METER READERS

443. Hon AMBER-JADE SANDERSON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Water:

I refer to the new two-monthly billing system by the Water Corporation.

- (1) How many meter readers were employed to read metropolitan household water meters in each of 2010–11, 2011–12 and 2012–13?
- (2) How many additional meter readers are required to read metropolitan household water meters every two months as part of the new billing cycle and how many have been employed to date?
- (3) What is the average distance a water meter reader in the Perth metropolitan area must cover each day to meet the two-monthly billing schedule?
- (4) What is the estimated number of households in the Perth metropolitan area that keeps their water meters locked?
- (5) How many security keys have been provided to water meter reading staff to unlock those meters that are kept locked by householders?

Hon COL HOLT replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) In 2010–11, 20 to 25; in 2011–12, 20 to 25; in 2012–13, 20 to 25; and in 2013–14, 60 to 65 with the introduction of two-monthly billing.
- (2) Forty to 45.
- (3) Ten to 14 kilometres.
- (4) Water meters are not normally locked; however, there are instances in which meters may be located behind locked gates—currently, 2 266 in Perth.
- (5) Sixty to 65 meter readers hold a WAS lock—Western Australian Services lock—that is, a combined utility lock. A key is held by the customer and the Water Corporation holds the master key—currently, 2 116. If the lock is provided by the customer, the key is held in a locked cabinet and is made available to the meter reader only as required—currently, 150.