

ORD–EAST KIMBERLEY EXPANSION PROJECT — PIPE LEAKAGE

41. Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Regional Development:

My question is with regard to the report by *The West Australian* on 9 February 2014 that huge pipes installed to irrigate new farmland under the Ord expansion project are leaking under pressure.

- (1) What sort of repairs will be required to rectify the situation and ensure that the problem does not arise again?
- (2) What will be the total cost of the repairs?
- (3) Given that this is a taxpayer-funded program, what portion of the repair bill will be paid by the state government and which entities will pay the balance?
- (4) Given the recent record rainfall in the Ord region, will the government table a statement of the full extent of damage to taxpayer-funded infrastructure for the Ord irrigation area and the cost to the public for repairs; and, if not, why not?

Hon COL HOLT replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) A rectification strategy is the responsibility of the contractor, and this is currently being discussed with them.
- (2) This will depend on the rectification strategy adopted.
- (3) The cost of rectification is considered to be a contractor issue to be resolved by the contractor.
- (4) Preliminary investigation indicates minimal damage to infrastructure. A full assessment will be undertaken after the wet season. There is no relationship between the need to rectify the pipes and the minimal impact on the Ord infrastructure from the recent rainfall.