

WATER CORPORATION — FEES AND CHARGES

452. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Premier:

Noting that water is our most basic of needs and that any overcharging for water beyond the cost of supply is a tax, and in light of the findings of the Economic Regulation Authority that the government is overcharging households an average of \$400 on their water bills, will the government immediately commit to giving back the massive water tax it is imposing on households in Darling Range and Perth?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I doubt that the member for Cottesloe has ever been to Darling Range. I do not think he ever goes outside that golden triangle of western suburbs that he inhabits. Getting out there in Darling Range would be very much outside his comfort zone. It is true. He is a creature of the western suburbs, as the member for Cottesloe. I note that in his inaugural speech all he could do was compare his electorate of Cottesloe with Rockingham and say how hard done by the people of Cottesloe were, compared with the people of Rockingham. That was the theme of his inaugural speech. I thought it was a bit of a stretch, to be honest, for him to do that.

The Minister for Water has answered all these questions before. The member posed the same question to the Minister for Water, and I note that the water charges and the arrangements with the Water Corporation that are in place currently are exactly the same as those that were in place under the Liberal government that the member's predecessor was Premier of.