

DEPARTMENT OF WATER — DESALINATION PLANT

2193. Hon Lynn MacLaren to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Water:
- (1) Is the State Government or the Department of Water aware of either a proposal for, or the operation of, a desalination plant in the Collie–Wellington Basin?
 - (2) If yes to (1):
 - (a) who built it, or proposes to build it;
 - (b) who owns it, or proposes to own it;
 - (c) who operates it, or proposes to operate it; and
 - (d) who is, or will be, using treated water produced by the plant?
 - (3) Did the State Government or the Department of Water receive any expressions of interest or proposals from Alcoa, in response to the Water Source Options Steering Committee report entitled *Water Source Options in the Collie–Wellington Basin Final Report to the Minister for Water Resources May 2007*?
 - (4) What, if any, infrastructure has been constructed, or is proposed to be constructed in, from or to the Collie–Wellington Basin?
 - (5) Who is, or was involved in the construction of infrastructure, if any, in, from or to the Collie–Wellington Basin?
 - (6) Who, if anyone, is currently using water from the Collie–Wellington Basin and for what purpose?
 - (7) Is the State Government or the Department of Water aware of Alcoa’s involvement, or proposed involvement, in the design, construction, management or operation of a desalination plant or proposed desalination plant in the Collie–Wellington Basin?

Hon Ken Baston replied:

- (1) Yes
- (2)
 - (a)
 - (i) Verve Energy built two desalination plants currently in operation.
 - (ii) Several proponents have raised their ideas with government but at this time there are no firm proposals for new desalination facilities.
 - (b) Synergy owns the plants built by Verve Energy referred to in (a)(i) above.
 - (c) Synergy operates the plants built by Verve Energy referred to in (a)(i) above.
 - (d) Synergy uses the water produced by the plants built by Verve Energy referred to in (a)(i) above.
- (3) No
- (4) In addition to desalination plants in answer 2, every self-supply water user has infrastructure in place to access water e.g. dams, bores, pumps and pipe-works.
- (5) Self-supply water users.
- (6) Self-supply water users for mining operations, horticulture and agriculture, irrigation of public open space and school ovals and for domestic purposes.
- (7) No