

DESALINATION PLANT — RECOGNITION

238. Mr P. PAPALIA to the Minister for Water Resources:

I am receiving very positive feedback from the community about how Western Australia has led the way with the construction of Australia's first major seawater desalination plant. Can the minister advise the house of how wide that recognition has spread?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call to order the member for Murray for a second time and the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE replied:

I thank the member for his question. Clearly, the Leader of the Opposition has not changed his maturity; he is still behaving like a schoolboy, unfortunately.

The member is quite rightly reflecting the very positive feedback that we are getting from right across Western Australia recognising that this government has taken the lead, made the hard decisions and secured water supplies for people all the way from Perth and right out to Kalgoorlie and Norseman. Not only did the facility win the international Desalination Plant of the Year award, but also it is being recognised by people from around the world and other jurisdictions in Australia. They have come to inspect the desalination plant because it is ahead of those plants that were built a year or two before it.

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Stirling to order for the first time.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: It is very interesting that we have that level of immaturity. The desalination plant is being recognised internationally and around Australia and members opposite want to put it down. They do not want to stand up for Western Australia and recognise the really good things that are happening here.

On Friday the Perth desalination plant was given the Australian construction industry's highest award. The 2008 Australian Construction Achievement Award was presented at an annual dinner, and the desalination plant was recognised as the most outstanding construction project in Australia. The award was presented to Multiplex Engineering and the proAlliance by the Governor-General, Michael Jeffrey, who was very proud that this should happen in Western Australia. That is very different from the Liberal opposition, which is not proud of Western Australia. This is the first time that a Western Australian project has ever won this award, but what do we hear from the Liberal Party? Members want to knock it and put it down. They do not recognise that through the construction companies in Western Australia and the alliance that the Water Corporation has formed, we have built a project that is delivering water to and providing water security for the people of Western Australia. It has also been recognised nationally and internationally as a leading project in its construction and operation. So far, the desalination plant at Kwinana has produced 52 billion litres of water. The plant's production capacity is rated at 45 billion litres of water a year, but in just over 12 months since it has been running, it has produced more than 52 billion litres of water a year. The desalination plant was built on budget and on time. That certainly adds to the recognition given in winning the award. The project was brought on quickly because of the drying climate and the demand for water. I congratulate the people who were responsible for it at the Water Corporation and in the alliance. The plant is important for Western Australia not only because it provides us with water, but also because it shows to the world that Western Australia can deliver these types of projects and that it can be a leader. Unfortunately, the opposition wants to continue to employ schoolboy tactics and does not support this fantastic project for Western Australia.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call to order the members for Roe and South Perth.