

BROWSE GAS FIELD BASIN EXPLORATION PROGRAM - WATER REQUIREMENTS

830. Hon KEN BASTON to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Water Resources:

Given the oil and gas exploration program that is taking place in the Browse gas field basin -

- (1) Does the Water Corporation have any short-term plans to increase the recharge rate to the port of Broome to assist the port authority in meeting the anticipated water supply needs of the exploration companies?
- (2) What would be the anticipated cost of upgrading the water main from the Broome water tower to the port of Broome from the existing 150-millimetre main to a 250-millimetre main?
- (3) Expressed as a percentage, how much of the cost of providing the existing 150-millimetre water main from the water tower to the port of Broome is the responsibility of -
 - (a) the Water Corporation; and
 - (b) the port authority and the developers of the heavy industrial area on Port Drive?
- (4) Expressed as a percentage, how much of the cost of upgrading the existing supply to a 250-millimetre water main would be the responsibility of -
 - (a) the Water Corporation; and
 - (b) the port authority and the developers of the heavy industrial area on Port Drive?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The current infrastructure meets all pressure and flow requirements as stipulated in the Water Corporation's operating licence. The provision of levels of service - pressure and flow - above those stipulated in the Water Corporation's operating licence are completed as required based on the developer's request, and these are funded by the developer. To date, no application has been received for the upgrade of the water supply.
- (2) As we have not yet received a formal application, the costs for the upgrade of the water supply have not yet been assessed.
- (3) The Water Corporation understands that the existing main to the port of Broome was installed in the 1960s by the then Public Works Department and ownership transferred to the Water Authority/Water Corporation. At the time of installation, the operation of the Broome port was also the responsibility of the Public Works Department.
- (4) The provision of levels of service - pressure and flow - above that stipulated in the Water Corporation's operating licence are completed as required based on the developer's request, and these are funded by the developer.