

DERBY, KNOWSLEY, MOWANJUM, FITZROY VALLEY — GROUNDWATER SUPPLIES

749. Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE to the minister representing the Minister for Water:

I refer to the Water for Food, West Kimberley program.

- (1) What evidence is there that the groundwater supplies at Knowsley, Mowanjum and the Fitzroy Valley are adequate and sufficiently sustainable to support intensive irrigated agriculture projects such as those announced recently?
- (2) What will be the environmental and health impacts of the drawdowns being proposed, especially in Derby, where there has been an inland migration of the salt water interface and a consequent rise in salinity levels of drinking water for some years?
- (3) What monitoring will be put in place to measure the rate of salt water intrusion into the Derby town water supply, and what contingency procedures are in place?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

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

On behalf of the Minister for Water, the answer is that information is not available in the time required, and I therefore ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.