

WATER CORPORATION — FEES AND CHARGES

**270. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Water:**

I have a supplementary question. Why will Western Australian families be slugged with further increases to water charges given that the government will be over-recovering on water charges in the metropolitan area to the tune of \$400 a household? Furthermore, the government will indiscriminately punish large families.

**Mr D.J. KELLY replied:**

There is a bit in that supplementary question. Members opposite will be interested to know that the representative household increase we announced on Sunday is 5.5 per cent. Had the Liberal Party won the last election, it would have introduced an across-the-board increase of six per cent. Every customer in Western Australia was done a favour by the 2017 election result. The member for Cottesloe cannot rewrite history. On the second point of the member's question, when members look at the across-the-board services the Water Corporation provides, they will see that it does not over-recover. It may surprise the member for Cottesloe that the government provides a substantial concession to country customers. Some people would advocate that we remove that concession and ask regional Western Australians to pay the true cost of the provision of water to country areas. The Labor Party does not support that. We will continue to support regional Western Australia by continuing to provide it with substantial concessions. The pricing measures that we introduced on Friday may have a substantial impact upon some of the member for Cottesloe's constituents. I suspect that when the member protests these changes and says that he is arguing for the benefit of lower income earners and regional Western Australians, he is probably looking after his own constituents.

**The SPEAKER:** That is the end of question time.