

WATER — GARDEN BORES

1356. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the minister representing the Minister for Water:

- (1) What proportion of garden bore use occurs within the Perth metropolitan area but is not from the Gnangara mound?
- (2) The Economic Regulation Authority's final report entitled "Inquiry into Water Resource Management and Planning Charges" dated February 2011 identifies that 177 000 garden bores in Perth collectively use 120 gigalitres a year of groundwater while the Department of Water's "Operational policy 5.17: Metropolitan domestic garden bores" dated August 2011 identifies that 167 000 garden bores in Perth use approximately 73 gigalitres a year of groundwater. Why are these figures different and what information are they based on?
- (3) If the Department of Water estimates, in its annual compliance report 2012–13 entitled "Environmental management of groundwater from the Gnangara and Jandakot mounds" dated February 2014, that garden bore use on the Gnangara mound was 30 gigalitres a year in 2011–12 and 2012–13, in the context of the above figures does that mean water use is greater in other parts of the Perth metropolitan area?
- (4) If yes to (3), why?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. I provide an answer on behalf of the Minister for Water.

- (1) Sixty per cent of garden bore use within the Perth metropolitan area is not within the Gnangara mound.
- (2) The reports were based on different time frames and assumptions. The Economic Regulation Authority report was based on information prior to the introduction of the three-day-a-week restrictions. The Department of Water policy used information gathered after water restrictions commenced. The Economic Regulation Authority's assessment was based on information from the Australian Bureau of Statistics regarding the number of domestic garden bores in the area and the average level of water use per bore from water use surveys. The Department of Water's operational policy 5.17 also used this information but refined it with more current information regarding the average level of water use per bore through the domestic bore metering trial.
- (3) No. Water use per bore varies but is not markedly different in different parts of the system.
- (4) Not applicable.