

GNANGARA MOUND AQUIFER

**122. Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE to the Minister for Water:**

I note that the Water Corporation sought to draw down 140 gigalitres of water from the Gnamagara mound aquifer this year, approximately five gigalitres more than it took last year.

- (1) Was this five gigalitres extra from the Gnamagara mound the water needed to replace the five gigalitres given away to allow waterskiing and other recreation on Logue Brook Dam?
- (2) Will the minister guarantee that the general public will not be forced to submit to total sprinkler bans in 2010-11 and that the Gnamagara mound will not be used to make up the shortfall in water over this period?

**Dr G.G. JACOBS replied:**

- (1)-(2) The draw down on Gnamagara mound, which was quoted by the member as five gigalitres, was authorised by the Department of Water. The increase over the next year for the draw down on Gnamagara mound has been authorised as a sustainable quotient. The suggestion that the five gigalitres of water was to replace what we have sacrificed—according to the question—from Logue Brook Dam is absolutely preposterous. The previous government was going to lay fallow Logue Brook Dam for two years before the 5.3 gigalitres was going to come on stream. For the opposition now to suggest that we on this side of the house, and I as Minister for Water, are authorising an extra five gigalitre overdraw on the Gnamagara mound to substitute the water in Logue Brook Dam is absolutely preposterous. This government and the Water Corporation are to be commended for their water efficiency measures. The people of Western Australia are to be commended for their water efficiency measures. I would suggest that the people of Western Australia would not want me to cancel the important water efficiency measures in this state that have saved over 45 gigalitres of water in one year. To suggest that I should abandon a very important water conservation measure for Western Australia is absolutely irresponsible.