

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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

- (1) Please provide an update on progress regarding proposed law reform for water resources management in Western Australia.
- (2) When does the minister expect to introduce a bill for water resources law in Parliament?
- (3) To what extent are current water allocations based on the latest projections for a drying climate in south-western Western Australia?
- (4) Given growing water demand and predictions of a continuing drying trend due to climate change, would the minister agree that updating laws that govern the management of water resources in WA has now become urgent?
- (5) Will new water resources laws be put in place before new large-scale irrigation precincts are established under the state government's Water for Food program?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the Minister for Water, I answer —

- (1) I am currently considering the responses from public submissions arising from the position paper that was released in late 2013.
- (2) Timing has not yet been determined.
- (3) Water allocation limits are set on our current level of understanding of the social, economic and environmental requirements incorporating the latest climate science projections.
- (4) The Liberal–National government is taking a considered approach to water reform with significant input from stakeholders. We are committed to ensuring an effective framework for the management of the state's water resources in a drying climate, which includes introduction of properly considered policy and legislative reform.
- (5) The timing of any new legislation is yet to be determined.