

WATER CORPORATION — MINNIVALE ASBESTOS INCIDENT

1470. Hon DARREN WEST to the minister representing the Minister for Water:

I refer to the Water Corporation Minnivale asbestos incident.

- (1) At the briefing given to the member for Bassendean on 21 October 2015 —
 - (a) who attended?
 - (b) was the member for Bassendean told that —
 - (i) 88 people had been exposed to asbestos at Minnivale;
 - (ii) the vast majority of those 88 had already been spoken to about their exposure;
 - (iii) the remaining people exposed would be notified by the end of that day;
 - (iv) Water Corp would be putting a public notice concerning the incident on its website the following morning?
 - (c) Was the member for Bassendean asked at the briefing to keep the information given confidential; and, if so, who made that request?
- (2) How many of the 88 people exposed to asbestos had not been notified of the situation by 11.00 am on 22 October 2015?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

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

- (1)
 - (a) The member for Bassendean; Hon Kate Doust, MLC; Sue Murphy, CEO, Water Corporation; Mark Leathersich, general manager, assets delivery, Water Corporation; and Nicole O'Keefe, chief of staff, Minister for Water.
 - (b)
 - (i) Yes. This comprised 22 Water Corporation staff and 66 contractors. These figures were correct as at 21 October 2015.
 - (ii) The majority of Water Corporation staff had been told.
 - (iii) No.
 - (iv) No.
 - (c) The offer of a confidential briefing was made, in person, by the minister to the member for Bassendean on Wednesday, 21 October 2015 prior to question time. The minister advised of the situation, offered a briefing, which was held later that afternoon, and advised that she would not be making a public statement until such time as the Water Corporation was confident that everyone who had been involved was aware.
- (2) All but one Water Corporation employee had been verbally informed. At this stage, the contractors had not confirmed who had or had not been notified from their workforce.