

WATER — BURU ENERGY — GROUNDWATER

3431. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Water:

I refer to question on notice No. 1505, asked on 9 September 2014 where the Minister said that it would take “decades as a minimum but more likely centuries” for groundwater to flow from Buru Energy fracking wells Yulleroo 3 and Yulleroo 4 to Roebuck Bay, and I ask:

- (a) what is the minimum amount of time, in years, it would take for groundwater to flow from Yulleroo 3 and Yulleroo 4 fracking wells to Lake Eda on the Roebuck Plains as estimated by the Department of Water;
- (b) what is the minimum amount of time, in years, it would take for groundwater to flow from Yulleroo 3 and Yulleroo 4 fracking wells to Roebuck Bay as estimated by the Department of Water;
- (c) what data does the Department of Water base these estimates on;
- (d) will the Minister table the data which the Department of Water relies on for these estimates; and
- (e) if no to (d), why not?

Hon Ken Baston replied:

- (a) I refer to the response to question on notice No.1505 – decades, more likely centuries.
- (b) I refer to the response to question on notice No.1505 – decades, more likely centuries.
- (c) An evaluation of groundwater flow in a similar sandstone aquifer (Broome) determined the estimated travel times.
- (d) Yes.
- (e) The assessment was conducted internally at the Department of Water by an experienced regional Hydrogeologist.