

NGURAWAANA COMMUNITY - WATER QUALITY

786. Hon KEN BASTON to the minister representing the Minister for Housing and Works:

I refer to the Ngurawaana community in the Pilbara.

- (1) Is the Water Corporation responsible for monitoring water quality in this community and on behalf of the Department of Housing and Works?
- (2) If yes to (1), what is the frequency and what is the process?
- (3) If no to (1), who is responsible?
- (4) How many water quality alerts were issued in 2005, 2006 and 2007?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

I thank Hon Ken Baston for the question.

- (1)-(3) The Department of Housing and Works is responsible for monitoring water quality at this community. However, the government is examining the potential for the Water Corporation or an alternative professional water provider to assume responsibility for water and sewer services to remote Aboriginal communities. Water tests are undertaken on a monthly basis. Samples are taken at specific sample points and couriered to Perth for analysis. When a test of samples fails to conform to Australian drinking water guidelines, the community is advised of appropriate remedial action. A regional service provider is tasked with addressing the matter, resampling and reporting compliance with the required standards to the department.
- (4) In 2005, four water quality alerts were issued, three of which proved to be non-harmful amoeba after analysis; in 2006, two water quality alerts were issued, one of which proved to be non-harmful amoeba after analysis; and in 2007, six water quality alerts were issued, four of which proved to be non-harmful amoeba after analysis.