

GNANGARA AND JANDAKOT GROUNDWATER

**1069. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the minister representing the Minister for Water:**

I refer to the latest Department of Water annual compliance report entitled “Environmental management of groundwater from the Gnamagara and Jandakot Mounds”; the government’s “Water for Growth” report released in May 2014 and a graph on the department’s website which shows that current superficial groundwater levels on the Gnamagara mound are similar to the past five years, with these years being the worst since 1997.

- (1) What action is the government taking to reduce abstraction by private licensed users, who are now collectively the biggest users by volume of water from the superficial aquifer on the mound?
- (2) Can the minister advise when the government expects to start consulting publicly on the next phase of Gnamagara groundwater allocation planning, which was a 2013 priority for the Department of Water?
- (3) According to the department, garden bore users took 30 gigalitres of water annually from the superficial aquifer in 2011–12 and 2012–13 yet the department states that there has been a significant reduction in the volume of water abstracted by garden bores on the mound due to regulations restricting use. Can the minister provide evidence of this reduction?
- (4) Can the minister provide an update on the Perth regional confined aquifer capacity study, which the government has stated will be central to the strategy of moving public water abstraction away from sensitive surface wetland areas and lakes?

**Hon KEN BASTON replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question. However, due to the level of information required, it is not possible to provide an answer in the time available and therefore I ask the honourable member to place this question on notice.