

LOGUE BROOK DAM

95. Mr M.J. COWPER to the Minister for Water Resources:

I welcome to the public gallery some of my constituents and families who are associated with Logue Brook Dam.

I refer to the Carpenter government's decision to close Logue Brook Dam, which is regarded by the Water Corporation as a pristine water supply.

- (1) Given that generations of Western Australians have used Logue Brook Dam for sport and recreation, why can it not be used for dual purposes, which is what happens in all other states?
- (2) Why does the government see the need to take a paltry five gegalitres of water from Logue Brook Dam when other options have largely been ignored?
- (3) What compensation will the Carpenter government provide to small business operators in the Harvey shire who will be negatively affected by the closure of Logue Brook Dam?
- (4) What are the acidity and heavy metal levels in the minister's proposed alternatives of Lake Stockton and Lake Kepwari, and are those levels of concern?

Mr J.C. KOBELKE replied:

- (1)-(4) I thank the member for the question. The member is well aware that Australian drinking standards do not allow for dual use. Clearly, some water sources fail to meet those standards.

Several members interjected.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: We are not about lowering standards.

Dr G.G. Jacobs interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the members for Roe and Cottesloe to order.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: That interjection indicates the total lack of standards of members opposite. The opposition is not worried about drinking water standards because it does not have standards in any other area. Why should members opposite worry about drinking water standards? As I indicated earlier on the steps of Parliament House, we must not only ensure that people have water that is pure and fresh and that meets drinking water standards, but also we must be able to guarantee that that will happen. We cannot have a situation in which the risk is very low, but once in a while something occurs that causes people to lose confidence in their water supply because there might be a risk in drinking the water. For decades people have been used to the water in Perth and Kalgoorlie —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members! I call the member for Roe to order for the third and final time.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: For decades people have been used to the fact that water in Perth and Kalgoorlie has met the required drinking water standards. We aspire to continue to meet those standards. We must be conscious of the fact that that has implications that preclude people from using some water. We are allocating \$10 million to a trust fund and to undertake a study plan to ensure that we can find alternatives. The member asked why we want to use the water in Logue Brook Dam when it provides only five gegalitres. Each five gegalitres adds up and assists us to meet our needs. That five gegalitres was always proposed as part of a 17-gegalitre trade. The piping and the cost of the water transfer was based on 17 gegalitres, of which that five gegalitres is part. During the evaluation process, I seriously considered having only 12 gegalitres and leaving the five gegalitres in Logue Brook Dam. However, given that the past few years have been dry, the government is under pressure to ensure that it can provide the water that is needed by the state.

On the issue of compensation, if people suffer a direct loss, they can make a claim against the Water Corporation. The Water Corporation is negotiating with the people concerned and compensation will be paid if this decision affects their business or other interests.

With regard to Lake Kepwari, more work must be done. However, I have been assured that the low pH levels and the other water quality issues will be dealt with to ensure that the water meets the standards required for recreation. When I was in that area with the member for Collie-Wellington some time ago, a diving school was using the dam for part of its training program. It is a fantastic site. When the trees have been planted and the facilities are built —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members! I call the member for Cottesloe to order. I warn the member for Roe that I can hear his comments even when his head is down. If the member for Roe makes any more interjections, he will be asked to leave the chamber.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: In closing, Lake Kepwari will be a fantastic resource for people who like to waterski and who want to engage in other water pursuits. I acknowledge that a lot of work has to be done, but I am quite confident that we can get that work done to the advantage of not only the people of the member for Collie-Wellington's electorate, but also those who come from near and far to utilise that body of water for a range of recreational pursuits.

LOGUE BROOK DAM

96. Mr M.J. COWPER to the Minister for Water Resources:

I have a supplementary question. Will the Carpenter government agree to refer this decision to the Economics and Industry Standing Committee to investigate the merits of not closing the local dam until that committee reports back to the house? There are plenty of people out here —

The SPEAKER: Order! The member should take a seat. The minister can answer the first part of that question.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE replied:

That is a debate we will have later in this house. I am happy to indicate that the government will not support that reference to the committee.

SOUTH WEST REGION — GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT

97. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for South West:

Recently there has been criticism about the state government's investment in the south west region. Is the minister aware of this criticism and will he outline the facts to the house?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I am aware of the criticism, and it has come from none other than the Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition said a range of things in a radio interview and in the *South Western Times* recently —

Mr T. Buswell interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Of course, he is already misleading the people because I live 50 kilometres closer to the south west than he does. The article reads —

As a member from the South West I've always felt there was a lot of focus on the mining-based exports out of the Goldfields and the Pilbara areas and often the value of the South West to Western Australia is overlooked.

He is right about one thing: with the experience of the Treasurer and Minister for State Development, we have put a lot of effort into the Pilbara, the goldfields and the north of the state. However, he is wrong about the allegation that there has not been a huge amount of effort put into the south west during the term of this government. We have spent in capital works more than \$700 million—probably approaching \$1 billion—in the south west of Western Australia. The list is really quite extraordinary and starts with the currently being constructed Perth-Bunbury highway, \$341 million; improvements to schools in the Collie region totalling millions of dollars; the \$12.2 million Kingston primary school under construction; upgraded equipment at Collie District Hospital; the Lake Kepwari redevelopment that is to be concluded later this year; improvements to power, water and sewerage throughout the region; the Bunbury outer harbour development, which is underway; the Collie Motorplex project; the dental clinic in Bunbury; mental health unit replacement —

Point of Order

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Once again, a minister is quoting extensively from what I take to be an official document. I ask that, if it is an official document, he table it.

The SPEAKER: Order! If it is an official document, the minister can table it. If it is notes, he does not need to.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will continue to quote from my notes. Significant improvements to schools in the region total more than \$115 million for new and improved schools, including I might add, Cape Naturaliste College in the Leader of the Opposition's electorate. We are trying to rebuild Busselton District Hospital, against the opposition of the Leader of the Opposition. The list continues: the greater Bunbury region scheme; the Back Beach redevelopment in Bunbury. The list is contained in my notes and the amount of effort directed towards the south west under this government is extraordinary. Allegations to the contrary are quite misleading.

LEACH HIGHWAY — TRUCK BAN

98. Mr J.E. McGRATH to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

I refer to the minister's flip-flop on banning trucks from travelling on Leach Highway and South Street, and ask —