

PILBARA — WATER EXTRACTION

2997. Hon Robin Chapple to the minister representing the Minister for Water

With regard to water consumption at various locations, I ask —

- (1) How much water is exported from the Broome, Port Hedland and Karratha Ports for the oil and gas or other industries, by volume per sector and/or industry?
- (2) Who is the responsible Agency for permitting water collection or extraction?
- (3) Who carries out this water collection or extraction?
- (4) Does the EPA have a regulatory or evaluation roll in respect of water collection or extraction, and what is it?
- (5) Is water exported to Barrow Island from any of the Pilbara/Kimberley Ports?
- (6) If yes to (5) —
  - (a) where does that water come from; and
  - (b) through which port is it exported?
- (7) Is a fee charged for that water?
- (8) If yes to (7) —
  - (a) what is the fee; and
  - (b) who receives the fee?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

- (1) The Member is advised to refer this question to the Minister for Transport.
- (2) Water is provided to Broome, Port Hedland and Dampier Port Authorities through commercial agreements with Water Corporation. Water Corporation are acting within the conditions of their licence with the Department of Water.
- (3) The Port Authorities
- (4) Proposals for water extraction and collection that have the potential to significantly impact on the environment are expected to be referred to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) by the proponent of the proposal or the decision making authority for water licensing, which is the Department of Water. When a proposal is referred to the EPA it will make a decision about whether or not to assess the proposal in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act 1986. The EPA does not approve or regulate water extraction proposals.
- (5)-(8) The member is advised to refer these questions to the Minister for Transport.