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## **Union questions redundancies in Water Department**

The Community and Public Sector Union/Civil Service Association wants to know more details about Minister Bill Marmion's plans to shed 94 jobs from the Department of Water over the next two financial years.

At the Estimates Committee meeting in State Parliament on Wednesday night Mr Marmion said he expected to provide a better service with reduced staff numbers but the union is questioning how this can be done.

CPSU/CSA Branch Secretary Toni Walkington said it sounded like another example of the Barnett Government putting the squeeze on the public sector with its cutbacks agenda.

She said the government was continuing to erode the effectiveness of the public sector with its 'efficiency dividends'.

"At a time when 1000 people are moving to Western Australia each week and there is an increased demand on public services the plan to slash staff numbers just doesn't make sense," Ms Walkington said.

"We are in the middle of a mining boom and ongoing development which will drive up demand for services provided by the department, yet there will be less staff to handle the workload.

"The government claims the majority of the staff cutbacks will be through voluntary severances which will place undue pressure on staff working there."

The government has allocated \$11.32million in the 2012-13 financial year for 'Organisational Restructure and Voluntary Severance' with a further \$9.2million in 2013-14 and 10.39million in 2014-15.

"In Parliament this week the minister said he didn't expect any reduction in service delivery as a result of the 'efficiency dividends' but we will be monitoring that situation very closely.

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“We already know services delivery was affected when the government introduced three per cent cutbacks in 2009-10 and now most public sector areas will be slugged with another two per cent this coming financial year, followed by another three per cent over the following three years.

“How can services not be affected with this type of slash and burn mentality?”

**FOR COMMENT:**

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