

WATER CORPORATION — SPRINKLER SWITCH-OFF

Statement by Minister for Water

MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean — Minister for Water) [9.14 am]: As part of the annual winter sprinkler switch-off, households and businesses across Perth, Mandurah and parts of the south west and great southern are being reminded to turn off their sprinklers from 1 June to 31 August, when lawns and gardens require less watering. The switch-off applies to both scheme and bore water users; however, hand watering is permitted and some exemptions may apply. In areas of WA not subject to the switch-off, normal watering rosters and daytime sprinkler bans still apply. The Water Corporation has made it easy for people to learn whether their suburb is included; they can visit its website and search for their postcode. Each year, tens of thousands of WA households demonstrate their commitment to the waterwise message by switching off their sprinklers and saving billions of litres of precious water. Last year, the program saved about five billion litres of water, the equivalent of 2 222 Olympic swimming pools, or enough to fill Optus Stadium five times. The winter sprinkler switch-off has saved around 45 billion litres of water since 2010. That is something we should all be extremely proud of. However, the job is not done. We know that climate change is real and is having a major impact on the amount of rainfall flowing into our dams each year. We all have a responsibility to help conserve water, and the simple act of turning off our sprinklers when they are not needed can save around five billion litres of water each winter.

I have turned off my sprinklers for the annual sprinkler switch-off and have done my part to save water and be part of a more waterwise household. I encourage all members to do the same and to promote this important initiative in their community. It is time to switch off.