

SEWERAGE, IN-FILL PROGRAM

Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Government Enterprises:

- (1) Is the minister fully aware of the impact that the Government's delays and cutbacks to the in-fill sewerage program, which is delivered by the Water Corporation, is having on many south west communities?
- (2) Given that the minister has been invited to a crisis meeting tomorrow of the south west ward of the Country Shire Councils Association, will he inform Parliament about his plans to overcome their concerns?

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS replied:

- (1)-(2) Approximately two weeks ago I read a newspaper article in which Councillor Beryle Morgan, a National Party candidate of recent vintage, claimed that she had invited me to meet with a number of shire representatives on 15 March. I noted this article with interest because I had not received that invitation. I found that rather curious. Subsequently, I received a letter from the councillor which was dated 1 March, and the letter was by way of invitation in the terms described. However, I received the letter on 6 March, or thereabouts. I promptly responded to the letter, advising the councillor that I was not available to attend a meeting on 15 March. I mentioned that I had first read about the invitation in a newspaper, and I referred her to the date upon which her letter was written, and received. I pointed out that I could not be there on 15 March, but I invited her to contact my office so that we could confirm a date.

I point out to the member that 15 March is tomorrow. I have a number of longstanding commitments tomorrow, not the least of which is a commitment to meet with Mr John Bradshaw and some south west irrigators to give serious consideration to matters of concern to south west irrigators and their relationship with the Water Corporation. I am meeting with Mr Bradshaw in response to an invitation that he courteously provided to me in early January 2002. I am looking forward very much to meeting with Mr Bradshaw and the south west irrigators tomorrow to hear about their concerns first-hand and to see what can be done to advance the interests of many of the Opposition's constituents. I am not into political stunts. I do not like National Party candidates engaging in political stunts and telling me when I will go somewhere.