

WATER SUPPLY SCHEME UPGRADE — MARGARET RIVER

**787. Mr G.M. CASTRILLI to the Minister for Water:**

As part as the Liberal–National government’s commitment to supporting growth in regional Western Australia, I understand the minister was recently in Margaret River to open the water supply scheme upgrade. Could the minister supply some details of that project, please?

**Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:**

I thank the member for the question.

Mr Speaker, as you know, this side of the house has a strong focus on regional development, and part of that focus is making sure that the regions have access to the essential services they need to continue to grow. Last week I was in Margaret River with the Minister for Regional Development and the local member opening the upgrades to the Margaret River water supply system. A total of 4 600 properties are connected in Margaret River, Cowaramup, Prevelly Beach and Gnarabup covering a population of 8 600. Ten Mile Brook Dam, with a 1.6 billion litre storage capacity, is the main water source for this area. The \$67 million upgrade was carried out over two stages. We actually fast-tracked the first stage because of the extraordinarily dry run of summers and we needed to pull water from the Margaret River to top-up the brook. As a consequence, we fast-tracked that stage and completed it in May 2012. The second stage allowed us to construct a new water tank next to the new water treatment plant as well as additional mains and we upgraded treatment facilities, which were completed in September. It means that there is now a water supply that can function without needing to pull water from the Margaret River. It also means that during potentially low rainfalls over coming summers, the customers in that area can be assured that we have made adequate provision for the supply of water.

The population in this part of the world has increased, and there are further increases with the influx over the summer period. As a consequence, local residents were seeing fluctuations in their water pressure. Part of the upgrades has meant that we can deal with those pressure reductions. We have built one of the storage tanks higher so that we can even out some of their pressure issues as well. It is therefore a great outcome for those communities that are serviced by that \$67 million upgrade. As we know, Margaret River is one of the nine SuperTowns. The state government is making a considerable effort to make sure it is planning for the growth of those communities across the state and that there is sufficient water for that area out to 2021. It is about this state government making sure that we are planning for the future and making sure that we have regional investments that encourage and grow those areas of the state.