

INFILL SEWERAGE PROGRAM AND RE-PRIORITISING OF WORKS

359. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the Minister for Government Enterprises:

I refer to a media statement released by the minister on 7 November under the heading “WA’s infill sewerage program on track”, and in particular to this statement -

Mr Griffiths said there was no question that the State’s Infill Sewerage program would be completed but it had been necessary to re-prioritise works . . .

Will the minister explain what he meant by “re-prioritise works”? Did he mean -

- (a) that the order of priorities in the infill sewerage program has been changed so that particular projects have been brought forward while others have been delayed; and, if so, will the minister table the new order of priorities;
- (b) that the priority of the infill sewerage program has been reduced to accommodate other projects now assessed as more urgent; and, if so, will he tell the House which new capital works projects have been given priority; or
- (c) that a significant portion of the infill sewerage program has been deferred indefinitely because of difficulties identified by Treasury in financing the Government’s capital works program?

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:

Last year I provided either a ministerial statement or an answer to a question without notice on this issue, and pointed out in some detail what had occurred under the previous Government with respect to its blow-out of expenditure, the fact that it had failed to properly fund capital works across the forward estimates, and that as a result it was necessary for the Government to re-prioritise a number of areas of capital expenditure. One of the areas affected was the infill sewerage program.

I refer the honourable member to last year’s budget and this year’s budget. He will see in last year’s budget that particular figures are given for the infill sewerage program. With regard to this year and the forward estimates moving out from this year, he will note that the money provided to the infill sewerage program has increased over the period of the forward estimates as compared with the period of the forward estimates last year. I believe that covers, in part, (a)-(c).