

GREY WATER USE AND WATER SAVING DEVICES

2042. Hon Barry House to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Water Resources

Will the Minister advise -

- (1) What opportunities are being proposed by the Government to promote grey water reuse?
- (2) What provisions are being developed to increase household installation of grey water systems in the near future?
- (3) What is the time frame for these proposals?
- (4) What are the estimated possible water savings through the increased uptake of grey water use?
- (5) What water saving initiatives exist specifically for low income households?
- (6) Are there retrofitting programs available for low income households to install water savings devices?
- (7) If so, what are the details of these programs?
- (8) If not, why not?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

- (1) The Government promotes greywater reuse through the provision of a \$500 rebate on approved greywater reuse systems through the Waterwise Rebate Program. The Government also supports the Water Corporation's approach of working with developers on appropriate third pipe non-drinking water development schemes (including greywater reuse) to demonstrate potential opportunities and issues in this area.
- (2) The Government will consider developing new provisions if the current initiatives do not provide sufficient encouragement or changes in technology or demand for greywater systems justifies an increased effort. In addition to greywater reuse the Government continues to pursue the State Water Strategy priority of large-scale water recycling schemes that minimise environmental, economic and public health considerations.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) It is difficult to determine the scheme water savings through the uptake of greywater reuse systems. However, estimates from the Domestic Water Use Study on washing machines and showers indicate that it is possible to save up to 110 kL per house a year.
- (5) All water saving measures and initiatives are carefully designed to prevent discrimination between high and low income households. The Government's Waterwise Rebate Program has numerous products available to the lower income households; these include low flow showerheads, soil wetting agents and tap timers. The presence of a rebate on Waterwise washing machines has greatly increased the number, and greatly reduced the price, of such machines helping all households to improve the water efficiency of their washing machine when purchasing a new machine or replacing an old one.
- (6) No retrofitting programs currently exist. However, the Water Corporation is examining the suitability of such a scheme for Western Australia.
- (7) Not applicable.
- (8) Refer to (6) above.