

DRINKING WATER — LEAD

1222. Hon RICK MAZZA to the minister representing the Minister for Water:

I refer to *The Sunday Times* article of 25 November “Toxic Water Taps”, which reported households have been officially warned to run taps for 30 seconds in the morning before using water for drinking or cooking amid growing concern about lead poisoning.

- (1) Considering the prevalence of a drying climate, if every household runs their taps for 30 seconds as part of a morning lead flush, what does this translate to in additional water wastage in Western Australia per year?
- (2) When did the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation become aware of the advice to run taps for 30 seconds to flush lead, which the article states was released nearly six months ago but was not publicised?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. The following information has been provided by the Minister for Water.

- (1) The impact is limited by variations in tap flow rates, the number of taps flushed by the customer in each home and customer usage patterns. The Water Corporation encourages the community to capture water flushed as part of this process and re-use it for watering the garden or pot plants.
- (2) It was in July 2018.