

STATE BUDGET 2015–16 — INFILL SEWERAGE PROGRAM

**315. Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE to the Minister for Water:**

I was pleased to see that the state government is continuing the infill sewerage program with an additional \$50 million —

**Ms M.M. Quirk** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Girrawheen! Start again, please.

**Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE:** I was pleased to see that the state government is continuing the infill sewerage program with an additional \$50 million worth of funding over the next four years. Can the minister please provide some information on where the funding will be allocated?

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

I thank the member for Churchlands for the question; he has been a fierce advocate for his electorate in relation to infill sewerage.

Several members interjected.

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** He has, and he has been successful.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members! I am sure the member for Churchlands appreciates the accolades, member for Warnbro!

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** He has been a very strong advocate on behalf of his electorate, which has been waiting for an announcement in this space for some time. Thank you for working with my office.

I announced over the weekend that the Liberal–National government will commit an additional \$50 million into the 2015–16 state budget to extend the state's infill sewerage program. That will enable 2 000 further residential lots in 10 different locations to access a public sewerage system in the metropolitan and regional areas. I am pleased to announce for the first time that traditional infill projects will go in where necessary and we will invest in septic tank effluent disposal, or STED schemes, which has been trialled in regional Western Australia where it has been very expensive to deliver infill sewerage and has unfortunately meant that we have not been able to come up with a solution to some of those communities. The trial I am talking about was funded through royalties for regions and was done in Hyden. The STED scheme will allow us to deliver for those smaller communities.

I am sure that all members of Parliament know that over the duration of a number of different governments, infill sewerage programs have been welcomed, for a number of different reasons, by the communities where we invest. There are very few places in the state, although there are some—members will see that on the list we have announced—where environmental reasons exist for making this investment. There are other reasons that local members come and talk to me about on various occasions. The traditional infill projects will progress for City Beach, Halls Head, Bunbury, Esperance, Bridgetown and parts of Toby Inlet where there are some issues in and around Vasse–Wannanup, member for Vasse. Kukerin, Bindoon, Leonora and Boyup Brook will receive STED schemes. The member for Wagin, whom I can hear in the background, also has been advocating for quite some time for Kukerin. For members who are not aware, in 1999 a small town, country scheme was created by the government of the day. It undertook the project prioritised at the top of that list and because of the expense, those on the list were never completed. Kukerin was next on that list and since that time has been advocating for a solution. We are now able to deliver that for Kukerin and other small communities in the state.

In total, this state government has committed \$160 million over the duration of this government into the infill sewerage program for more than 93 000 households in metropolitan and regional Western Australia. The number will reach almost 95 000 by the time these projects have been delivered.