

NATIONAL WATER WEEK

Statement by Minister for Water

MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean — Minister for Water) [2.08 pm]: I rise to inform the house that yesterday marked the first day of National Water Week 2021. National Water Week runs from 18 to 24 October, with the theme “Caring for Water and Country: Celebrating the role of water in our lives and culture”. I kicked off the launch of National Water Week by acknowledging the first two years’ achievements of the inaugural Waterwise Perth action plan. Launched by the McGowan government in October 2019 and led by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, the state’s first Waterwise Perth action plan provides a strategic, whole-of-government approach to planning and addressing water-related issues associated with urban intensification and the increasing demand for water in the face of climate change.

The first two years of the Waterwise Perth action plan have delivered significant water savings, with an estimated 535 million litres of water saved. Over the last two years, the plan has completed 38 key actions that have helped conserve precious water resources and enhance urban green spaces, while educating and engaging the community and delivering government-led water-sensitive policy, planning, and development. Major achievements delivered through the plan to date include: 300 million litres of water saved through the leak assist rebate scheme; 92 million litres of water saved through the water-efficient showerhead swap scheme; 142.7 million litres of water saved through retrofitting public housing with water-efficient fixtures; 49 000 students participating in the Waterwise schools program; 84 000 waterwise plants planted across Perth and Peel suburbs; and funding to plant 3 500 trees across 18 Perth and Peel local governments. The Waterwise Perth action plan helps create a clear link between water management and concepts such as urban planning, urban heat, river and wetland health, contaminated soils, public health, recreation and biodiversity. The next waterwise plan will build on the successes and achievements of the first and will be released in coming months.

National Water Week is a good time to reflect on not only the value of water to our lives, but also the impact that climate change is having on our water supplies and what we can do to save this precious resource.