

SEWERAGE — INFILL PROGRAM — KUKERIN

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

I refer to delays to sewerage infill programs in regional areas and reports that, on some occasions, the small town of Kukerin has raw sewage flowing into the street, and the comment by the minister that he would reconsider plans if shires can prove the existence of health issues.

- (1) Why has the estimated cost for Kukerin's sewerage upgrade program gone from \$1.9 million under the previous government to \$6.7 million under the current government?
- (2) What is the estimated time line for an upgraded sewerage program for Kukerin?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. The Minister for Water has provided information on which this answer is based.

- (1) The original estimate was \$4.8 million. This was based on a trial scheme under construction in Hyden at the time. It was expected the approach at Hyden would be replicated with similar conditions for future schemes. However, the trial established that lined evaporation ponds would be required for all future schemes, which included Kukerin. In addition, the land originally proposed for the wastewater treatment plant could not be acquired, resulting in a redesign of the scheme that introduced a pump station, longer pipes and additional earthworks into the project scope.
- (2) At this stage, no upgrade is planned; however, the minister will review the matter should the Shire of Dumbleyung provide evidence of any systemic leach drain inundation in Kukerin. In accordance with the Health Act 1911 and the Health (Treatment of Sewage and Disposal of Effluent and Liquid Waste) Regulations 1974, the local authority has delegated responsibility from the Chief Health Officer for approval and inspection of on-site facilities and to ensure their ongoing integrity is maintained. The minister has asked the Water Corporation to offer any technical assistance that might be required by the Shire of Dumbleyung to assist it to maintain on-site facilities.