

## **WINTER SPRINKLER SWITCH-OFF**

*Statement by Minister for Water*

**MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean — Minister for Water)** [2.11 pm]: Members, if you have not already done so, today is the day to switch off your garden irrigation system. The winter sprinkler switch-off is effective as of today and will run until 31 August. By switching off our irrigation systems, we can help save around five billion litres of precious water this winter. All households can do their bit to help combat the effects of climate change on our water supply.

The annual winter sprinkler switch-off is a permanent water efficiency initiative that requires scheme and bore water users in Perth, Mandurah and parts of the south west and great southern to turn off their reticulation over winter. Water Corporation research shows that most households do the right thing, with nine out of 10 switching off their sprinklers during winter. During the cooler months, lawns go dormant and plants do not require as much water, meaning that it is the perfect time to save water for when we need it most. Households are also encouraged to switch off their reticulation, not just in winter but whenever it rains. The sprinkler switch-off applies to both scheme and bore water users, but hand watering is permitted, and some exemptions do apply. Water Corporation inspectors are out seven days a week monitoring for unauthorised sprinkler use during the switch-off period. Anyone in the winter sprinkler switch-off area spotted using their sprinklers between 1 June and 31 August risks a \$100 fine. In areas of the state not subject to the switch-off, normal watering rosters and daytime sprinkler bans still apply.

Since being introduced in 2010, the annual winter sprinkler switch-off has saved around 50 billion litres of water—enough to fill Optus Stadium 50 times. So, members, think climate change, be waterwise and make sure you switch off your sprinklers today.