

WATER CORPORATION, SEWAGE SPILLS

816. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Minister for Government Enterprises:

I refer to the report in *The West Australian* yesterday stating that the Water Corporation will spend \$100 million over five years to reduce sewage spills into the Swan and Canning Rivers.

- (1) Where is the funding coming from, and will it be sourced from the Water Corporation's dividend to the State Government?
- (2) Given that the report also stated that \$39 million will be spent in regional Western Australia, which areas will benefit, and how?
- (3) Will the State Government take this opportunity to accelerate the completion of the infill sewerage program to prevent similar incidents in regional waterways such as the Blackwood, Preston, and Collie Rivers?

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Funding is from the Water Corporation's capital investment program.
- (2) In the first five years of this program, all regional communities will benefit from the increased capacity of the corporation to respond to emergencies. The program will provide improved emergency backup power supplies, additional overflow storage, arrangements for pumping station bypass, enhanced alarms and remote control systems. The focus in the first five years for additional overflow storage is on the north west, south west and great southern regions. The mid west and agricultural regions have overflow storages that are currently adequate.
- (3) No; accelerating the infill sewerage program will not prevent similar incidents.