

PORT GREGORY, WATER SUPPLY SCHEME

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

Given the urgent requirement for water which is delaying the development and growth of the town of Port Gregory, not to mention the tourism potential, when will the Government fund a water supply scheme that will adequately meet current and future needs?

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

The Water Corporation advises that the Port Gregory water supply is owned and operated by the Shire of Northampton under licence from the Office of Water Regulation. The Water Corporation could only consider providing a water supply to Port Gregory on the basis of a capital contribution from the community and approval of a community service obligation. At the request of the shire, the corporation has undertaken studies to determine costs associated with the upgrading of the water supply to corporation standards. The study also investigated supply options, such as a supply from a new water source or by desalination. The corporation has recommended the desalination option to the shire and provided an estimate of the cost. It is now up to the shire, in consultation with the community, to pursue options for funding the upgrading of Port Gregory's water supply.