

WATER RESOURCES, GOVERNMENT'S POLICY

37. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Water Resources

In refer the Minister to his water resources policy, and ask:

- (a) will the Government still provide \$29 million towards the converting of open surface irrigation to piped irrigation in the Harvey/Logue Irrigation District if efforts to secure \$28 million from the Federal Government fail;
- (b) where has the Government allocated the \$15 million that it has committed to spend to help reduce salinity levels in the Wellington Dam;
- (c) will the Government still provide \$15 million to help reduce salinity levels in the Wellington Dam if efforts to secure matching funding from the Federal Government fail;
- (d) will the Minister provide a breakdown of all projects that have received funding under the Farm Water Grants Scheme since 2001;
- (e) what has been the annual cost of the Waterwise Rebate Program since it was introduced;
- (f) what quantity of water has been saved through rebates on water efficient appliances, and how has this quantity been measured;
- (g) will the Minister provide a complete breakdown of all costs associated with the administration and management of the Waterwise Rebate Program;
- (h) what action is being taken to 'further expand the use of recycled water in industry, as well as in irrigation of parks and agricultural areas near Perth';
- (i) what projects have been funded through the \$3 million Premier's Water Foundation, and how much has been allocated to each project;
- (j) will the Minister provide a complete breakdown of all costs associated with the administration and management of the Premier's Water Foundation;
- (k) how much water is currently provided to industry via the Kwinana Water Reclamation Plant;
- (l) what action has the Government taken to assess the option of establishing additional desalination plants;
- (m) will the Minister guarantee that the metropolitan area will not face water restrictions and sprinkler bans in the next five years; and
- (n) have any water sources been secured to meet the anticipated 182 gegalitres of water that will be required from 2009 until 2050, and if so, will the Minister provide details on these sources?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The \$15 million allocated to reducing salinity levels is held in the Water Corporation's budget.
- (c) The State Government is confident that the Commonwealth Government will agree to provide funding.
- (d) Since 2001 a total of 771 grants have been approved through the Farm Water Grant Scheme totalling \$7,910,514. This expenditure has increased both the planning effort and landholder expenditure for on-ground works that are essential for water supply to broadacre farming areas not served by a piped water scheme. This effort is particularly relevant in light of drying climate trends.
- (e) The annual cost of the Waterwise Rebate Program in its first year of operation was \$7,174,747. In its second year, the annual cost of the rebate program was \$12,144,811. The costs to date for the current year, 12 February, 2005 - 31 March 2005, are \$1,970,865.
- (f) Water saved through rebates on water efficient appliances since the program commenced is 6.4 GL/yr. This has been calculated by multiplying the number of rebates granted per product by the calculated annual water saving per product. This equates to a total saving of 67.7 GL based on the effective lives of the various products.
- (g) Since the Waterwise Rebate Program commenced, the total cost associated with the management of the program to date is \$1,906,564. This can be broken down into two key areas

of expenditure: \$1,119,274 for administration costs and \$787,289 for advertising and marketing expenses.

- (h) Specific projects include negotiations with existing and new industries in the Kwinana industrial area to take recycled water from the existing and future expansions of the Kwinana Water Recycling Plant; liaison with Alcoa to take recycled water at a number of refinery locations including Pinjarra and Kwinana; the investigation of the use of recycled water to irrigate parks in the western suburbs near the Subiaco Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the use of recycled water to supply horticultural industry in the Carabooda area. A key opportunity for our local environment is to use aquifers to store and transport the water to the point of use.

Overarching initiatives include the creation of new health guidelines on groundwater recharge with recycled water with the Department of Health; the preparation of an environmental risk assessment framework with the Department of Environment and seeking strategic advice from the Environmental Protection Authority on groundwater recharge with recycled water.

- (i) Eight projects were identified for funding from Round 1 of the Premiers Water Foundation Grants, awarding a total \$2.55 million and leveraging a total of \$9.24 million of research for the benefit of the State.

Individual projects for Round 1

Grantee Name Grant	Project Name	PWF
Royal Life Saving Society of Australia	Best practice profile for public swimming pools - maximising reclamation and reuse	\$30,000
CSIRO	Towards productive use of Wheatbelt acid saline water; pretreatment for desalination.	\$151,898
Development Institute of Geraldton Grammar Incorporated \$165,990	Sustainable Water Harvesting for Ecological Benefit.	
Clean TeQ Pty Ltd	Woodman Point Waste Water Treatment Plant Effluent Recycling Using Continuous Counter-Current Ion Exchange	\$225,000
CSIRO Land and Water	Investigation of Techniques to Better Manage Western Australia's Non-Potable Water Resources	\$750,000
CSIRO Land and Water	Determining requirements for managed aquifer recharge in Western Australia.	\$750,000
Environmental Technology Centre, Murdoch University \$205,000	Demonstration of Decentralised Wastewater Recycling in Urban Villages	
WA Vegetable Growers Association	A web-based expert system for efficient vegetable irrigation on sands	\$276,000

A further \$54,000 of the Round 1 pool has been allocated to marketing of the program, while \$66,000 is held as a contingency sum. The Premier's Water Foundation Board expects to roll the balance of the available funds into its proposed second round of funding.

- (j) The Premier's Water Foundation 04/05 budgeted operational costs are as follows.

Salaries & Allowances	\$47,500.00
Other Staffing Costs	\$1,500.00
Board Costs	\$17,800.00
Communications Costs	\$1,600.00
Services & Contracts	\$18,700.00
Consumable Supplies	\$5,000.00

Total

\$92,100.00

Note: An additional \$18,000 per annum (over three years) is budgeted for marketing of the Round 1 program, which is derived from the \$3 million grant pool.

- (k) 8 ML per day.
- (l) The Government is assessing a number of possible future water sources. This includes an examination of desalination as a possible option.
- (m) No. However, the level of risk will be reduced significantly as the source developments planned over the next five years take place.
- (n) The Government is developing a range of options to meet the projected demand which is identified in the Water Corporation's Integrated Water Supply Scheme Source Development Plan 2005. This is providing greater security of supply and minimises the risk of total sprinkler bans. This document is available on the Water Corporation's website.