

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

**ANSWERS TO 2020-21 BUDGET ESTIMATES AND 2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT - QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING
(ROUND 2)**

Water Corporation

Hon Diane Evers MLC asked:

1) I refer to the \$18.6 million for a proposal to connect Denmark to the Lower Great Southern Water Supply Scheme and includes the construction of a 42 km connecting pipeline to provide security of supply in the changing climate, a project with an estimated total value of \$25 million:

a) Did the Government consider alternatives to constructing a pipeline;

Answer:

Yes.

b) If yes to (a), what other options did the Government consider, and what were the cost-benefit analyses of the construction and operation of each option;

Answer:

Other options assessed were:

- Upgrading the existing pumpback from Denmark Dam to Quickup Dam.
- Denmark River groundwater with reverse osmosis (necessary for salinity reduction).
- Accessing local groundwater sources.
- Raising Quickup Dam.
- Local groundwater supplementation (to Quickup Dam or into the reticulation).
- Connecting Denmark to the Lower Great Southern Towns Water Supply Scheme (LGSTWS) (multiple routes assessed).

The recommended option to connect Denmark to the LGSTWS option was preferred as it:

- Could be delivered in the required timeframe.
- Provided the lowest net present value of the options considered.
- Provides a safe and reliable long term water source for Denmark
- Minimises environmental impact.
- Addressed the concerns of the majority of local stakeholders

c) If no to (a), why not;

Answer:

N/A

- d) Has the Government undertaken a triple bottom line assessment of the pipeline proposal; and

Answer:

Yes. The Government has undertaken an assessment against the asset management objectives of safe, reliable, compliant and cost effective.

- e) What are the community's recommendations for securing a resilient water supply for Denmark and how did the Government ascertain these?

Answer:

Connecting Denmark to the LGSTWS was an option outlined in Water Corporation's *Water Forever: Lower Great Southern* issued in 2010. This plan was developed with community input on a wide range of water efficiency and water source options.

Since the pipeline project was announced in September 2019, Government has completed extensive community engagement with impacted landowners, approval agencies and the wider community. This engagement has included a community forum in January 2020 attended by more than 200 local residents; four community information sessions at the Denmark Library in February 2020; regular updates provided in *The Denmark Bulletin* and local Shire channels; email updates to registered subscribers and an online community available since January 2020 (yoursay.watercorporation.com.au/waterwisedenmark).

The proposed pipeline alignment has been publicly available since January 2020 and received no objections during the formal comment period.

- 2) I refer to drainage capacity and renewal in metropolitan and regional areas mentioned in the works in progress table on page 770 of BP 2, volume 2, and I ask:

- a) what drainage capacity and renewal works will be undertaken in the metropolitan area in 2020-21;

Answer:

37 drainage capacity and renewal works will be undertaken in the metropolitan area in 2020-21. The major projects being: Osborne Park Branch Drain Upgrade to drain and culverts; upgrades to Phillimore Street Main Drain and Cliff Street Main Drain in Fremantle; removal of Brookland Street culverts and work on the Harris Street overflow channel in Yule Brook Main Drain.

- b) what drainage capacity and renewal works will be undertaken in regional areas in 2020-21;

Answer:

31 drainage capacity and renewal works will be undertaken in the regions in 2020-21. The major projects being: the upgrade of the Vasse Diversion Drain in Busselton, and the replacement of the drainage bridge and floodgates in Albany, Capel and Busselton.

- c) what wastewater network and treatment capacity and renewals projects will be undertaken in the metropolitan area in 2020-21;

Answer:

116 wastewater network and treatment capacity and renewals projects will be undertaken in the metropolitan area in 2020-21. The major projects being: duplication of the Sepia Depression Ocean Outfall Line; completing the major upgrade of the Woodman Point Wastewater Treatment Plant; installation of energy recovery equipment at the Beenyup Wastewater Treatment Plant; Amarillo South and Pebble Beach sewer pump stations in Mandurah; generator installations and control upgrades at various sewer pump station sites.

- d) what wastewater network and treatment capacity and renewals projects will be undertaken in regional areas in 2020-21;

Answer:

319 wastewater network and treatment capacity and renewals projects will be undertaken in regional areas in 2020-21. The major projects being: Collie Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge Dewatering Upgrade; York Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Stage 1; sewer reticulation relining in various towns; mechanical and electrical upgrade of the Busselton Clydebanks Avenue site and Broome North Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade.

- e) what water network capacity and renewals projects will be undertaken in the metropolitan area in 2020-21;

Answer:

1,601 water network capacity and renewals projects will be undertaken in the metropolitan area in 2020-21. The major projects being: the replacement of more than 70,000 customer meters; renewal of 40km of water reticulation pipelines in 74 streets in 44 suburbs; Pipes for Fremantle replacement of cast iron pipes; steel pipe replacement in Mundijong and Roleystone and installation of additional fire hydrants across various suburbs.

- f) what water network capacity and renewals projects will be undertaken in regional areas in 2020-21;

Answer:

137 water network capacity and renewals projects will be undertaken in regional areas in 2020-21. The major projects being: new tank in Karratha; the replacement of the Yule bore collector main near Port Hedland; replacement of customer meters; major valving and control system upgrade in Geraldton; renewal of customer service connections in Karratha and renewal of degraded buried pipe sections on the pipeline to Lake Grace.

- g) what water supply capacity and renewals projects will be undertaken in the metropolitan area in 2020-21;

Answer:

618 water supply capacity and renewals projects will be undertaken in the metropolitan area in 2020-21. The major projects being: the expansion of the Neerabup Groundwater Scheme; membrane replacement at the Perth Seawater Desalination Plant; trunk pipeline and major valve upgrade at Greenmount; membrane replacement at the Southern Seawater Desalination Plant and upgrade of the Victoria Dam pumpback.

- h) what water supply capacity and renewals projects will be undertaken in regional areas in 2020-21?

Answer:

1,644 water supply capacity and renewals projects will be undertaken in regional areas in 2020-21. The major projects being: the pipeline from Albany to Denmark; advanced water treatment plants for four Murchison towns; a new storage tank at Merredin; pipeline from Greenbushes to Kirup; a new storage tank at Dedari and borefield expansion in Albany.

Minister's initials


