



Speech by

# Hon. Robert Swarten

**MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON**

Hansard Thursday, 10 August 2006

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Department of Public Works, Water Conservation

**Hon. RE SCHWARTEN** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing) (9.52 am): The Queensland government continues to lead by example in the drive to reduce water consumption. Today I am pleased to announce further measures to reduce water consumption in government buildings.

In two government buildings—at 80 and 111 George Street—the Department of Public Works has launched a pilot project to monitor and evaluate water usage over the next six months. A report evaluating the water savings will be produced at the end of the trials for use in future decision making. Q-Build workers are retrofitting two floors of each building with the latest water-saving technologies such as dual-flush toilets and smart-flush, low-flow and waterless urinals, as well as kitchen and basin taps retrofitted with flow restrictors.

A lot of the water that we use from day to day in our society is wasted, so it is important that we make the most of recent advances in this area. The new fittings used in this trial meet the very latest efficiency standards and should provide significant water savings. On three floors of both buildings, water meters have also been installed to garner further data. The trial also is reviewing typical high water-use areas in buildings, new and emerging technologies and financial modelling processes including incentive and user-pays schemes. These innovations will highlight valuable water-saving information which will be used in future to help cut water usage in government office buildings.

One of the partners in this project, Caroma Dorf, will sponsor the trial to the value of about \$36,000. Caroma is a wholly owned subsidiary of GWA International Ltd, an Australian owned company based in Brisbane. A formal agreement has been drawn up between the Department of Public Works and Caroma Dorf, and at a function today it will be my pleasure to sign off on it.

This is yet another example of the Queensland government showing the way in water conservation in buildings. More efficient appliances mean more water saved in government buildings. It is Smart State thinking.

*Tabled paper:* Copy of ministerial statement by Hon. R Swarten titled 'Signing MOU on Thursday 10th'.