



Speech by

Hon. Robert Swarten

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Hansard Wednesday, 29 November 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Water Smart Buildings Program

Hon. RE SCHWARTEN (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Public Works, Housing and Information and Communication Technology) (10.12 am): The Department of Public Works continues to lead the way in the drive to reduce water consumption in Queensland government buildings, facilities and parks. The Water Smart Buildings program is well advanced on a number of fronts, including the fitting of the latest technologies designed to save water.

A newly formed task force has started installing flow restrictors and water efficient showerheads in the more than 50 buildings across south-east Queensland. These works are expected to be completed well ahead of the level 4 water restrictions deadline of June 2007 for non-residential users. Contractors have also been engaged to adjust urinal flush rates and replace inefficient single-flush toilets with the latest dual-flush model.

We can see the results of these modifications already. Alterations to the Queensland Police Headquarters in Brisbane have saved up to 8,000 kilolitres of water in three months. This is a saving of more than 40 per cent, far exceeding the level 4 restrictions requirement of 25 per cent. In commercial office buildings, a reduction of at least 25 per cent will be achieved in the use of water suitable for drinking.

Significant water savings have also been achieved at Roma Street Parkland. A range of strategies has been carried out to deliver an annual saving of 90,000 kilolitres of town water. As an interim measure, recycled water is being carted in and used to supplement lake and stormwater, while investigations continue into alternative water sources to meet the parkland's long-term needs. The Water Smart Buildings program continues to establish the Queensland government as a leader in water conservation.