

Speech by

Hon. Judy Spence

MEMBER FOR MOUNT GRAVATT

Hansard Wednesday, 6 June 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Corrective Services Water Policy

Hon. JC SPENCE (Mount Gravatt—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services) (11.30 am) by leave: A little bit more information has come to hand with regard to the question that the member for Burnett asked concerning the water policies in our prisons. So secret are these water policies that I actually put out a press statement about them on Friday, 21 July last year. I talked about how much water we were saving in our prisons and these new policies.

I was a bit more generous than I thought I was. Rather than the four-minute shower that I stated, water shortages now mean that Queensland criminals will have less time to lather up in the shower. I announced that they are restricted to two, three-minute showers a day. This will save 35 megalitres of water a year in Queensland's jails or 10 per cent of our water or the equivalent of 15 Olympic size swimming pools.

Not only do we have the shower policy but prison officers are now asked to monitor the way prisoners use their taps and make sure these taps are turned off. As well, all non-essential hosing was stopped then. Flow restrictors on taps and toilets had been installed by then. The only jails that do not have dual-flush toilets are Maryborough, Wolston, Brisbane Women's, Capricornia and Woodford. They all have vacuum systems for toilets which means that they are similar to aircraft toilets and use less water than the dual-flush systems.

All of this confirms that we are way ahead of the opposition in terms of thinking about these things. I would encourage the member for Burnett to keep up. He should look at the internet and look at my press releases before embarrassing himself and asking silly questions in this chamber.