

Question on Notice
No. 746
Asked on Tuesday 24 May 2005

MR FOLEY asked the Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women (MS DESLEY BOYLE)–

QUESTION:

As I have been advised that grey water can now be returned to gardens and lawns and that there is some concern about bacterial damage to soils, will she advise whether there are any Government approved recycle type diverters that can help with this situation and will the Queensland Government match the \$500 rebate that the Victorian Government gives to residents who install this type of technology?

ANSWER:

Proposed amendments to Queensland's plumbing legislation, due to be debated in Parliament later this year, will allow for the use of greywater by householders in sewered areas.

This legislation will contain a range of important controls on the application of greywater that will manage any anticipated health risks.

Existing diversion devices filter greywater for large solids but not to a standard that removes pathogens, for example bacteria.

Because the diverted greywater is not pathogen-free, it will be distributed using only subsurface irrigation. This will minimise human contact and avoid pooling. Any low-level pathogens that may be present in the water will rapidly degrade through natural processes in the soil.

Whilst there are no plans to offer rebates to householders for the installation of greywater use facilities, the Queensland Government is supporting the adoption of water recycling and conservation measures, on larger scale projects, through enabling legislation and support for local governments to develop innovative treatment and recycling infrastructure.