

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1321**  
**Asked on 31 October 2006**

MR HOBBS asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (MR BEATTIE) -

**QUESTION:**

With reference to his commitment during the Election Campaign to provide \$15.5m over two years to help maintain Queensland gardens, parks and sporting fields during the prolonged drought and continuing water restrictions—

As the drought is continuing and many community and sporting organisations are struggling to maintain their facilities, when will the guidelines for the \$15.5m package and call for applications be released?

**ANSWER:**

My Government has demonstrated strong leadership in dealing with water security and demand management in South East Queensland, and across the State. This funding commitment will complement other water saving initiatives such as the highly popular Home WaterWise Rebate Scheme, which offers residents rebates on rainwater tanks, water efficient washing machines and other water saving devices.

In keeping with the election commitment, the Home WaterWise Rebate Scheme has been rolled out across the State. Since 2 November 2006, all Queenslanders have had access to the rebate scheme. However, to maximise water savings, rebates are payable for eligible purchases from 16 August 2006, the date of the election commitment to take the rebate scheme state wide.

In addition, my Government is working with local governments in South East Queensland to deliver the Home WaterWise Service whereby residents can, at a very reasonable cost, arrange for a plumber to repair leaks and install water saving showerheads and flow restrictors in their home.

The \$15.5 million 'Water for Gardens, Parks and Sporting Grounds' commitment will complement these existing water saving programs, by expanding the pool of applicants for assistance beyond residents to include not for profit organisations. The Department of Natural Resources and Water is currently refining the details of the 'Water for Gardens, Parks and Sporting Grounds' programs as a priority to maximise water savings.

The commitment covers three separate programs, comprising:

- \$10 million over two years for grants for not for profit organisations to improve their water efficiency. Eligible organisations will include groups such as sporting clubs, churches, parents and citizens associations, community child care, kindergartens and pre-schools. This program is under development and guidelines for applicants will be available by 1 December 2006. Due to the impending holiday period an extended lodgement period to 31 March 2007 will be provided to ensure that organisations that close down over Christmas are not disadvantaged.

- \$5 million over two years for the new Home Garden WaterWise Rebate Scheme to help Queenslanders maintain their gardens. The design of this program is nearing completion and details will be announced in the future.
- \$0.5 million over two years for the nursery industry and Queensland Government to develop an education campaign to promote water wise gardening tips. My Government is developing a communication plan to inform people that they can still have their garden, they just have to be smart about garden design, what to plant and when and how to water their garden. My Government will be working closely with the nursery industry to make sure that we have a commonly agreed approach to the best way to be water efficient in the garden, whether living in the wet tropics or in the outback.