

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1503**  
**Asked on 29 November , 2006**

Mr Stevens asked the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing Information and Communication Technology (MR SCHWARTEN) –

**QUESTION:**

Have all Public Housing dwellings been retro-fitted with all Government subsidised water-saving devices and how much water has been saved?

**ANSWER:**

The My Department of Housing's Home Water Saving Scheme has commenced a twelve 12 month program to install water flow restrictors to the cold water taps of major plumbing outlets in the bathroom, laundry and kitchens of departmental houses as well as install and A AAA- Rated shower roses at a cost of \$5.2mM.

Approximately 34,600 properties are to be targeted and will include all Departmental of Housing department owned accommodation that is located in the south east Queensland Local Government Authority areas that have Level 3 and above water restrictions, as well as the Gold and Sunshine Coasts and parts of the South West Queensland and Wide Bay-Burnett Area Office boundaries.

Further, the State Government's Home Water Wise Scheme is providing a rebate to Department of Housing tenants who install their own rainwater tank, on the condition installation is approved by the department.

Tenants wishing to claim a rebate can contact the Department of Natural Resources and Water on 1800 243 585. As some local governments also provide rebates for the installation of rainwater tanks, tenants can make enquiries directly with their local council.

In addition to these schemes, water efficient shower roses, taps and dual flush toilets are installed in all new construction. Unserviceable water fittings on existing dwellings are also replaced when faulty or when an upgrade to the bathroom, kitchen, laundry and/or toilet is undertaken.

The Queensland Government has extended the Home WaterWise Rebate Scheme across Queensland, which now allows tenants of the departmentthe Department of Housing tenants to claim rebates on rainwater tank installations from 16 August 2006. Public rental tenants are also eligible to receive a rebate for water efficient washing machines under this sScheme.

In addition to these schemes, water efficient shower roses, taps and dual flush toilets are installed in all new construction. UFor maintenance on non efficient appliances/nserviceable water fittings on existing dwellings , these are also replaced when faulty orand when an upgrade to the bathroom, kitchen, laundry and/or toilet is undertaken.

The amount of water saved cannot be calculated due to the different ways local councils calculate and advise water consumption. However, water flow restrictors, which the department is installing, will significantly reduce the flow rate. and consequently save water to 9 litres per second.