

Question on Notice
No. 194
Asked on Wednesday 1 March 2006

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

QUESTION:

How will the new laws regarding grey water be of benefit to my constituents?

ANSWER:

The new greywater laws have removed the absolute prohibition on using greywater in sewered areas. It used to be illegal for homeowners to do anything with their greywater other than send it to the sewer.

All Queenslanders can now bucket greywater to gardens and lawns without breaking the law. Many people in dry areas will bucket greywater from baths and laundry tubs onto the garden.

The new laws will also make it possible for people to install greywater systems for garden watering. These systems will take greywater diverted from bathrooms and laundries and use it to water lawns and gardens.

Because of the larger volumes involved with automatic diversion systems there are a few precautions that need to be taken. Systems will need to be checked and approved by council officers and the irrigation pipes for greywater will need to be buried below the ground.

For people living in flats and units on the Gold Coast the only change will be that they can legally bucket greywater from sinks and basins to water plants.

People living in larger homes with thirsty lawns and gardens, will be able to set up garden watering systems that use greywater all year round, even when there are no water restrictions.

An average four-person household can save up to 380 litres of water per day using greywater.