

**Question on Notice
No. 588
Asked on 18 April 2007**

MR WENDT asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)-

QUESTION:

What water saving initiatives are being introduced into Ipswich Hospital to assist with level 5 water restrictions?

ANSWER:

Queensland Health has developed and implemented a Departmental Water Efficiency and Conservation and Efficiency Policy to articulate the commitment of Queensland Health to improving the water efficiency of its facilities and operations.

In regard to Ipswich Hospital, initiatives that have been introduced include:

- The installation of four 34,000 litre water tanks to harvest rainwater. The water tanks are used to harvest rainwater collected off several hospital buildings and roadways, for use by the hospital's cooling towers. Normally all the water used in the cooling towers would come from the town water supply.

The four tanks receive water captured by two existing concrete tanks constructed in storm water drains. The concrete tanks remove various contaminants such as oil, dirt and leaves before the water is pumped into the four new water tanks;

- dual flush toilets and water flow restrictions in showers, basins and sink taps have been installed across the hospital in accordance with the expectations of level 4 and 5 water restrictions and have currently, over the past 24 months, reduced water consumption by 26.75%;
- all taps within the facility have a sticker "Lets Watch Every Drop" water is a precious resource. This was a combined campaign between the Queensland Water Commission and Queensland Health; and
- in line with water restrictions there is no washing of footpaths or concrete areas around the hospital.

Depending on rainfall, Ipswich Hospital may alone save up to 380,000 kilolitres of water per year through these initiatives.