

Question on Notice
No. 671
Asked on Thursday 19 April 2007

MR WENDT asked the Minister for Local Government, Planning and Sport (MR FRASER) –

QUESTION:

With reference to the constituents of Ipswich West who are well aware of WaterWise rebate schemes that have been put in place to assist residents with water savings—

What incentives and schemes are available to assist businesses and community groups to save water?

ANSWER:

The State has committed \$40 million to the Business Water Efficiency Program in South East Queensland, which is designed to provide technical and financial support to the business sector to achieve water savings in a timely and effective manner.

The primary objective of the Business Water Efficiency Program is to deliver a minimum saving of 12ML of potable water per day across South East Queensland by April 2008, in accordance with the *Water Regulation 2002*.

The Business Water Efficiency Program is being delivered by SEQWater Corporation and currently involves 21 councils in South East Queensland.

In order to maximise the return on public investment, the Business Water Efficiency Program is targeting Tier 1 (those using more than 10ML per year) and Tier 2 (those using 1 - 10ML per year) business customers.

The State Government has committed a further \$15 million to extend the Business Water Efficiency Program State-wide. The extension is based upon the South East Queensland delivery model to the greatest possible extent in order to ensure administrative efficiencies and the employment of standardised procedures and practices.

The Minor Facilities Program (Minors) also provides funding to not-for-profit sport and active recreation organisations to undertake minor construction, extension or upgrade works to sport and recreation facilities. Applications which include water saving initiatives (for example, drought resistant turf, bores and fixed irrigation) are given priority under Minors.

Another State Government initiative announced during the 2006 election campaign is the Lifestyle WaterWise Grants Program, which is administered by the Department of Natural Resources and Water and provides grants of up to \$30,000 to not-for-profit community groups for:

- improving sportsground or park watering systems;
- replacing existing water-use devices (eg. single-flush toilets);
- providing alternative water sources; and
- installing swimming pool covers and rollers.