

Question on Notice
No. 907
Asked on Thursday 7 June 2007

MR MESSENGER asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (MS SPENCE)-

QUESTION:

Will she detail the average daily water consumption (both potable and non-potable) in each Queensland correctional facility dating back to 2004 (broken down individually by each correctional facility and each month reported separately)?

ANSWER:

I refer the member to the statement I made in the Parliament on 20 February 2007.

From Hansard: 20 Feb 2007 Ministerial Statements 295

Greener Prisons

Hon. JC SPENCE (Mount Gravatt—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services) (10.09 am): The drought has brought home the reality of climate change to all of us so today I want to detail how the state's prisons are playing their part in reducing energy consumption and increasing water efficiency.

Water efficiency management plans are being produced for each of Queensland's 13 jails, which will result in savings of up to 35 megalitres a year—or 15 Olympic size swimming pools of water. Already our prisons have introduced measures such as restricting prisoner showers and using site-collected water on prison grounds. All non essential hosing has been stopped and flow restrictors have been installed on taps and toilets.

All new capital works will feature flow restrictors in all tapware, water efficient shower heads, dualflush toilets in some instances and the use of vacuum toilets in newer centres, the inclusion of native vegetation into landscaping and consideration of rainwater harvesting and water reuse.

Meanwhile, new prison sites, such as the prison precinct in the Gatton shire, will incorporate further measures such as vacuum drainage, roof water to be used for toilet flushing, time-limited showers, roof water for irrigation and central laundering. Prisons are also becoming greener when it comes to energy usage. An energy performance contract at the Lotus Glen Correctional Centre should lead to annual savings this financial year of \$126,594 and a drop in carbon dioxide emissions by 603 tonnes. An energy study at Woodford Correctional Centre should help lead to savings of around 20 per cent, or \$334,374, while another at the Wolston Correctional Centre should save \$460,000 and result in over 3,000 fewer tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.

This program will be extended across all secure centres over time.

In addition, many offenders are helping to green our environment through community service orders that focus on environmental restoration. Projects have included bushland revegetation at the Loders Creek catchment area on the Gold Coast, the Dune Beach regeneration project at Maroochydore, the Petrie Creek regeneration project at Noosa and work with environmental group Save Our Waterways Now.