

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 513

asked on 7 August 2013

MR GRANT ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND WATER SUPPLY (MR MCARDLE)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the yearly cost of maintaining the pipelines built by the former government for the now defunct plan to have Queenslanders drinking recycled water?

ANSWER:

The Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme (the Scheme) is planned to be shut down as soon as practicable. Seqwater will continue to care for and maintain the assets so that the Scheme can continue to be used to provide a drought response when water levels fall below critical levels.

The Scheme involves three advanced wastewater treatment plants and an extensive pipeline network.

The total annual operating costs associated with the Scheme under current operations is around \$31 million, including the pipelines, with the annual fixed operating costs of the pipeline network being around \$6.3 million under current operations.

These costs are expected to reduce significantly when the plant is shut down and placed in care and maintenance. The total yearly operating costs of applying care and maintenance to the Scheme is expected to be between \$12 million to \$13 million, with maintenance of the pipelines associated with the Scheme expected to be around \$3.5 million.

Operating costs do not reflect all costs associated with the Scheme. As the investment was funded through debt, there are also costs incurred in repaying this debt as well as associated interest costs.