

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1944

asked on Thursday, 28 November 2019

MR J BLEIJIE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

With reference to Seqwater and the Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy funding arrangements in relation to the South East Queensland water grid—

Will the Minister outline from 2015-16 to 2018-19 (reported separately), (a) the amount spent on educational and awareness campaigns on consumers/public being waterwise, (b) the amount spent on water efficiency measures and programs to reduce water use in state government departments and buildings and (c) the overall water use as a whole by Queensland Government entities?

ANSWER:

- (a) Seqwater has confirmed the following spends on water efficiency campaigns between 2015 and 2019:

Financial Year	Seqwater Water Efficiency Campaigns (\$M)
2015–16	0.3
2016–17	0.3
2017–18	1.4
2018–19	2.1
Total	4.1

The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME) also administers a “*waterwise*” campaign, which provides information and materials to promote “*waterwise*” behaviours at community events and to school children. Information about this campaign can be found on the Queensland Government website here:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/water/residence/use/community>

Funding figures for this campaign are minimal and are not itemised within the department’s budget.

- (b) DNRME will be sharing across all agencies this week a package of water efficient information.

The package will include information to be used on departmental intranets, social media channels, and other communication channels both internally and with relevant customers.

That information will include ways that both individuals and businesses can save water inside and outside.

It is not possible to provide a consolidated figure for the amount spent on water efficiency measures and programs because this type of expenditure is not centrally reported.

Compiling this information would require individually contacting and collecting information from 114 different government agencies. Many agencies would need to compile this information from multiple sources within their own organisation as they may operate across multiple locations and properties.

Compiling this information would therefore place an unnecessary burden on government resources.

- (c) It is not possible to provide a consolidated figure for the State Government's overall water use because this information is not centrally reported.

Compiling this information would require individually contacting and collecting information from 114 government agencies. Agencies would need to manually compile and review quarterly water bills for each period, and for each of the buildings they occupy or operate.

For example, there are over 1200 State schools and around 200 public hospitals and health centres across Queensland, and this information would need to be collected and collated for each location to provide a complete answer.

In some cases this information would be difficult to compile as some agencies occupy privately owned buildings and therefore are not always billed directly for water usage.

Compiling this information would place an unnecessary burden on government resources.