

RURAL DRAINAGE SYSTEMS — FUNDING

2361. Hon Sally Talbot to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Water

- (1) For the following years what was/has been budgeted by the Water Corporation for rural drainage in —
 - (a) 2008–2009;
 - (b) 2009–2010; and
 - (c) 2010–2011?
- (2) In which areas was/will this money be spent, for the following years —
 - (a) 2008–2009; and
 - (b) 2009–2010?
- (3) Can the Minister advise if the Water Corporation has implemented any of the recommendations, concerning drainage reform for rural drainage systems which stemmed from the water quality improvement plan for the rivers and estuary of the Peel-Harvey system?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

- (1) The Water Corporation's rural drainage budget (capital and operating) for the following years was:
 - (a) 2008–2009: \$11.169 million (capital) and \$3.387 million (operating)
 - (b) 2009–2010: \$2.508 million (capital) and \$3.740 million (operating)
 - (c) 2010–2011: \$3.285 million (capital) and \$3.747 million (operating)
- (2) Expenditure was in the following areas:
 - (a) 2008–2009: \$10.977 million of capital expenditure, with the focus on flood protection works in Busselton. This included construction of a third compensating retention basin (\$8.9 million) and upgrade of the Vasse Diversion Dam (\$1.4 million). High-tech monitoring equipment has been installed at the basins to facilitate early flood detection by the Bureau of Meteorology, helping to improve early warning response times. The flood mitigation work was crucial to Busselton's ongoing development as a regional centre.

Operating expenditure is focussed on maintaining the capacity of the drainage network; some 380 kilometres of drains in six rural drainage districts.
 - (b) 2009–2010: \$1.177 million has been spent to April 2010, with the focus on replacement of drainage structures in the Rural Drainage Districts of Albany, Harvey and Mundijong.
- (3) None of the recommended actions has been allocated to the Water Corporation.