

PERTH STORMS — SEWERAGE INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

83. Hon ALISON XAMON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Water:

I am not quite sure who will take this question. I refer to the recent storm and subsequent power outages in Perth on Monday, 22 March this year.

- (1) In the Water Corporation sewerage infrastructure network, how many sewage pumping stations were without power for any length of time in the aftermath of the storm, and for what length of time?
- (2) What is the estimated volume of untreated sewage that was discharged into rivers, wetlands, parks, stormwater and drainage systems, streets and other areas in the Perth metropolitan area in the period when pumping stations were not powered?
- (3) What is the entire capacity of overflow storage tanks in the Water Corporation?
- (4) What are the public health concerns for coming into contact with untreated sewage in an urban environment?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

On behalf of the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Water, who is away from the immediate confines of the chamber on urgent parliamentary business, I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The parliamentary secretary has asked me to convey the following answer to the member, which I now do —

- (1)–(3) Following the storm event, approximately 130 pump stations were left without mains power. Some of these sites had backup diesel generators to maintain pumping capability. The remaining information requested is currently being collated by the Water Corporation and will be available in approximately mid-April 2010 when this work has been completed. If additional information becomes available earlier, it will be provided to the member through the minister's office.
- (4) Please refer this part of the question to the Minister for Health as it falls within the responsibilities of the Department of Health.