

BROOME SOUTH WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

299. Hon KEN BASTON to the minister representing the Minister for Water:

I refer to the ponds located at the Broome South Wastewater Treatment Plant.

- (1) What is the total amount spent on relining the wastewater ponds at this location in the last three years?
- (2) Are the Water Corporation and the minister confident that there is very little risk of wastewater from this facility entering Roebuck Bay?
- (3) If no to (2), what further measures are planned to reduce the risk of that occurring?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. The Minister for Water has provided the following information.

- (1) Between July 2016 and June 2017, the Barnett government spent \$3.125 million. Between July 2017 and March 2019, the McGowan government spent \$1.401 million.
- (2)–(3) Notwithstanding that a total of \$63 million has been invested in Broome’s wastewater scheme over the last 17 years, some seepage still occurs, although this has been reduced by 71 per cent. In addition, the facility is designed to contain a one-in-50-year rainfall event; therefore, overflow and/or containment failure would occur only during extreme rainfall events. In such cases, treated wastewater would be highly diluted with stormwater and would present very little risk to Roebuck Bay.

The Water Corporation is currently undertaking a \$1.1 million detailed ecological risk assessment for the Broome South Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is due to be completed towards the end of 2019. The Water Corporation may decommission the Broome South Wastewater Treatment Plant within the next decade. Planning is underway to determine the most appropriate way to decommission the site, upgrade the wastewater system and upgrade the Broome North Wastewater Treatment Plant.