

WATERWISE TOWNS PROGRAM

756. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Water:

I refer to figures in the “Water Forever: South West” report that show that Dunsborough residents are using more than 20 000 litres above the regional average per person and Nannup is using 60 000 litres above the regional average per person.

- (1) Will the government extend the Waterwise Towns program to these towns?
- (2) If yes to (1), when can we expect to see water usage brought back under control in these towns?
- (3) If no to (1) and (2), why not?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The Water Corporation ran the Waterwise Towns program as a targeted water security initiative for towns supplied by the upper great southern town water supply scheme, which does not include Nannup and Dunsborough. The figures referred to in the report are the total water use for each town, which includes residential, business and commercial customers and non-revenue water for Water Corporation schemes only. This is not reflective of individual household use. The per household residential usage in Nannup was 181 000 litres, which is below the high-use criteria of 245 000 litres. Dunsborough has a high residential usage of 290 000 litres per household. However, there is a distinctive holiday season peak that elevates these figures.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) A number of criteria apply when selecting towns for water efficiency programs, including high water use, security of supply and the potential to defer capital expenditure. At a statewide level, Dunsborough and Nannup are not currently identified as priorities. Both of those towns will be assessed again in early 2016.