

ONE ARM POINT — WATER TOWER COLLAPSE

188. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the recent catastrophic collapse of the community water supply tower and tank at One Arm Point, and I ask:

- (a) what was the cause of the collapse;
- (b) how many other communities have a water tower and tank of similar age and design;
- (c) are the tanks inspected on a regular basis;
- (d) if no to (c), why not;
- (e) if yes to (c), how often;
- (f) what steps, if any, have been taken to mitigate risk to other communities in (b) which have these similar water tanks; and
- (g) if no to (c), will the Minister order an urgent inspection of all such tanks to minimise the risk of serious injury to any bystanders should another collapse occur?

Hon Ken Baston replied:

The funding of essential services capital works is a Commonwealth responsibility, however, the Department of Housing advises:

- (a) The cause of the collapse was a combination of a number of contributing factors which include:
 - The age of the tank.
 - The climatic conditions that this tank is exposed to (coastal conditions), which increases the potential for corrosion.
 - A “weak point”, resulting from a historical internal leak within the tank between the tank and the liner causing internal rusting of a welded seam, that was identified during the investigation after the collapse. This leak was not apparent externally.
- (b) 14
- (c) Yes
- (d) Not applicable
- (e) Every three years.
- (f) On an operational level, urgent operational instructions were provided to the Department’s contractors to mitigate potential future risk through a documented process.
- (g) Not applicable.