

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**Question on notice****Tuesday, 6 May 2014**

1105. Hon Robin Chappie to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Housing.

I refer to question on notice No. 855, asked on 11 March 2014, regarding water towers in remote communities, and I ask:

- (a) for all of the water towers that cannot be filled or are substandard, what is the filling regime;
- (b) is the filling regime having an impact on power generation in each of the community locations or regions;
- (c) if no to (b), why not;
- (d) if yes to (b), why and how;
- (e) what is the level of load being placed on each community location or region during the filling regime;
- (f) please list the water consumption efficiency measures that have been introduced to affected communities, for example education, spring loaded taps with auto turn on and off, repairs to leaking taps and pipes;
- (g) if none to (f), why not;
- (h) does the infrastructure of the remaining water towers meet safety requirements;
- (i) if yes to (h), please list the water towers that do;
- (j) if no to (h), please list the water towers that do not;
- (k) of the ones listed in (j), does the department have any plans to replace the water towers;
- (l) if yes to (k), which water towers are to be replaced and when; and
- (m) if not to (k), which water towers are not to be replaced and why not?

Answer

The Department of Housing advises:

- (a) The filling of the water towers is automated. Water towers that cannot be filled to capacity, due to their condition or age, have the following procedures in place to mitigate risk:
- Undertake visual inspection of tank prior to entering the water compound, to ensure no apparent change in condition.
 - Reduce the volume of water stored in tanks to minimal operational levels to reduce stress on infrastructure.
 - Restrict access into water compound where possible.
 - Reduce water levels to an absolute minimum, if working on the tank or structure.
 - Ensure water compound is not occupied during filling and emptying procedures.

(b) No

- (c) The same amount of power is required to maintain minimal supplies of water. The electrical components of the water infrastructure run more frequently, but for shorter periods of time, as a result of the reduced water limit.

(d) Not applicable

- (e) The load placed on power stations varies across the program subject to the community size and infrastructure system.

- (f) The Department of Housing ensures that water systems in communities under the Remote Area Essential Services Program are maintained and repaired on a regular basis. The Department also undertakes regular maintenance and repairs of internal plumbing under agreed housing management arrangements.

Tenants are also encouraged to report leaks and defects in a timely manner. In addition, through its Beyond Town newsletter the Department publishes educational articles about water efficiency that assist in managing water demand.

The Department is in ongoing discussions with the Commonwealth Government under National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH) to develop targeted initiatives to reduce demand on water supply. Through NPARIH, over the last six years the Department has built or refurbished approximately 1780 community houses with a key focus of ensuring house plumbing and facilities are in good working condition.

(g) Not applicable

- (h) Safety standards vary across communities. Some tanks have exceeded their recommended operational life, and have been identified for replacement from the findings of an inspection program.

(i) [See Tabled Paper no.]

(j) [See Tabled Paper no.]

- (k) The Department has recently received government funding of \$15 million in the 2014-15 financial year to undertake some critical infrastructure works. The program of works is

prioritised based on the outcome of a risk assessment process and is subject to change should needs arise due to the condition or failure of existing essential service assets.

(l) [See Tabled Paper no.]

(m)[See Tabled Paper no.]

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive letter 'M' followed by a horizontal line.

LC QoN 1105 Marmion A

(i)

Water tanks identified as being in average to good condition:

#	Community	Region	Tank Description	RAESP / NON-RAESP	Condition
1	BOBIEDING	KIMBERLEY		RAESP	Average
2	WARBURTON	GOLDFIELDS	Ground (North) Old	RAESP	Average
3	BEAGLE BAY	KIMBERLEY	Ground (East)	RAESP	Average
4	BLACKSTONE	GOLDFIELDS	Ground	RAESP	Average
5	BURRINGURRAH	PILBARA	Elevated	RAESP	Average
6	YAKANARRA	KIMBERLEY	Elevated	RAESP	Average
7	WARBURTON	GOLDFIELDS	Ground (NEW)	RAESP	Average
8	JIGALONG	PILBARA	Elevated	RAESP	Average
9	PUNJU NJAMAL	PILBARA	Elevated	RAESP	Average
10	PARNGURR	PILBARA	Elevated	RAESP	Average
11	JINPARINYA	PILBARA	Elevated	RAESP	Average
12	TJUNTJUNTJARRA	GOLDFIELDS	Ground (Compound)	RAESP	Average
13	KANDIWAL	KIMBERLEY	Elevated	RAESP	Average
14	WARAKURNA	GOLDFIELDS	Ground	RAESP	Average
15	WARAKURNA	GOLDFIELDS	Elevated	RAESP	Average
16	BAYULU	KIMBERLEY	Ground (West)	RAESP	Average
17	GALEROO GEORGE	KIMBERLEY	Elevated	RAESP	Average
18	BLACKSTONE	GOLDFIELDS	Elevated	RAESP	Average
19	PIA WADJARI	PILBARA	Elevated	RAESP	Average
20	DODNUN	KIMBERLEY	Elevated	RAESP	Average
21	NGURTAWARTA	KIMBERLEY	Elevated	RAESP	Average
22	KALUMBURU	KIMBERLEY	Ground (North)	RAESP	Average
23	YANDEYARRA	PILBARA	Ground	RAESP	Average
24	KOORABYE	KIMBERLEY	Elevated (2)	RAESP	Average
25	JIGALONG	PILBARA	Elevated	RAESP	Average
26	BLACKSTONE	GOLDFIELDS	Elevated	RAESP	Average
27	JIGALONG	PILBARA	Ground (2)	RAESP	Average
28	GUDA GUDA	KIMBERLEY		RAESP	Average
29	WANNAN	GOLDFIELDS	Ground	RAESP	Average
30	BARRELL WELL	PILBARA		RAESP	Average
31	KARALUNDI	PILBARA	Ground (West)	RAESP	Average
32	KARALUNDI	PILBARA	Ground (East)	RAESP	Average
33	BOW RIVER	KIMBERLEY	Ground	RAESP	Average
34	BARRELL WELL	PILBARA	Ground	RAESP	Average
35	KIWIRRKURRA	PILBARA	Ground (1)	RAESP	Average
36	PUNJU NJAMAL	PILBARA	Ground	RAESP	Average
37	JIGALONG	PILBARA	Ground (1)	RAESP	Average

#	Community	Region	Tank Description	RAESP / NON-RAESP	Condition
38	JUNJUWA	KIMBERLEY	Ground (West)	RAESP	Average
39	MULUDJA	KIMBERLEY	Elevated	RAESP	Average
40	KIWIRRKURRA	PILBARA	Ground (2)	RAESP	Average
41	WANDANOOKA	PILBARA	Elevated	RAESP	Average
42	WANNAN	GOLDFIELDS	Elevated	RAESP	Average
43	MINDIBUNGU	KIMBERLEY	Ground	RAESP	Average
44	WOOLAH	KIMBERLEY	Elevated	RAESP	Average
45	YANDEYARRA	PILBARA	Elevated	RAESP	Average
46	BURRINGURRAH	PILBARA	Ground (1)	RAESP	Average
47	TJUNTJUNTJARRA	GOLDFIELDS	Elevated	RAESP	Average
48	DJARINDJIN	KIMBERLEY	Elevated	RAESP	Average
49	LA DJARDARR BAY	KIMBERLEY	Elevated	RAESP	Average
50	PUNMU	PILBARA	Elevated	RAESP	Average
51	WARAKURNA	GOLDFIELDS		RAESP	Average
52	PARNGURR	PILBARA	Ground (West)	RAESP	Average
53	YULGA JINNA	PILBARA	Elevated	RAESP	Average
54	YULGA JINNA	PILBARA	Elevated	RAESP	Average
55	BLACKSTONE	GOLDFIELDS	Ground	RAESP	Average
56	PARNGURR	PILBARA	Ground (East)	RAESP	Average
57	JAMESON	GOLDFIELDS	Ground	RAESP	Average
58	BURRINGURRAH	PILBARA	Ground (2)	RAESP	Average
59	KIWIRRKURRA	PILBARA	Elevated	RAESP	Average
60	NGURTAWARTA	KIMBERLEY	Rocket	RAESP	Average
61	PUNMU	PILBARA	Ground	RAESP	Average
62	YANDEYARRA	PILBARA	Ground	RAESP	Average
63	CHEEDITHA	PILBARA	Ground	RAESP	Average
64	DODNUN	KIMBERLEY	Elevated	RAESP	Average
65	MARTA MARTA	PILBARA		NON-RAESP	Average
66	MINGULATHARNDOO	PILBARA		NON-RAESP	Good
67	MOWANJUM	KIMBERLEY		RAESP	Good
68	WEYMUL (CHIRRATA)	PILBARA		RAESP	Good
69	WINDIDDA	PILBARA		RAESP	Good
70	TJIRRKARLI	GOLDFIELDS	Ground	RAESP	Good
71	WANGKATJUNKA	KIMBERLEY	Elevated	RAESP	Good
72	MARUNBABIDI	KIMBERLEY	Elevated	RAESP	Good
73	BARDI (ARDYALON)	KIMBERLEY	Elevated	RAESP	Good
74	BARDI (ARDYALON)	KIMBERLEY	Ground	RAESP	Good
75	KUNAWARRITJI	PILBARA	Elevated	RAESP	Good
76	LOMBADINA	KIMBERLEY	Ground	RAESP	Good
77	NGALINGKADJI	KIMBERLEY	Elevated	RAESP	Good
78	NGURAWAANA	PILBARA	Elevated	RAESP	Good

#	Community	Region	Tank Description	RAESP / NON-RAESP	Condition
79	WARRALONG	PILBARA	Ground	RAESP	Good
80	YIYILI	KIMBERLEY	Ground	RAESP	Good
81	JAMESON	GOLDFIELDS	Elevated	RAESP	Good
82	BIDYADANGA	KIMBERLEY	Ground	RAESP	Good
83	NGUMPAN CLIFFS (NGUMPAN)	KIMBERLEY	Ground	RAESP	Good
84	GLEN HILL (MANDANGALA)	KIMBERLEY	Ground	RAESP	Good
85	BARDI (ARDYALON)	KIMBERLEY	Ground	RAESP	Good
86	BEAGLE BAY	KIMBERLEY	Elevated	RAESP	Good