

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Maley to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics:

Southport Water

- 1. What consideration has the Government given to delivering reticulated water to Southport?**

Reticulated water supply for Southport is considered in association with future (long term) urban and peri-urban development south of the Elizabeth River, as identified in the Darwin Regional Land Use Plan.

- 2. What is the anticipated cost of infrastructure etc to deliver reticulated water to Southport?**

The cost of any infrastructure is dependant on a number of variables, including the extent of regional, sub-regional, and district-level infrastructure required.

- 3. A proposal to transfer management of Southport's bores from DIPL to PWC was scrapped because a review found the bores did not meet PWC's 'standards'. In what areas did those standards fall short?**

An independent review in 2016 identified differences between the bore infrastructure at Southport and standard bores infrastructure managed by PWC, including differences in pump and manifold infrastructure, storage capacity, power supply and access.

- 4. In relation to bore standards, the Utilities Commission noted that a key policy consideration was the lack of set minimum service standards in relation to water supply and sewerage services. What are minimum service standards?**

Minimum standards may include water quality standards, standards of supply (including water pressure and flow) and reliability of service.

- 5. What measures has Government taken to develop minimum service standards in relation to water and sewerage services in Southport?**

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics has enacted a maintenance and testing program for the bore to ensure the water supply remains of potable standard.

6. We are midway through the Berry Springs Water Allocation Plan 2016-26, are the plan's targets up to date?

The plan is currently being reviewed, including the targets within the plan, and will be updated as required.

7. What is the current water level of the dolostone aquifer and how does that compare with the previous five years?

The Berry Springs aquifer is monitored on a regular basis and information updated on a monthly basis and is publically available.

All data monitored by Water Resources can be viewed via the Water Data Portal (water.nt.gov.au).

8. Please provide a monthly graph of the aquifer's levels covering the past five years?

Please refer to Figure 1.

9. What challenges do you expect with water supply around Berry Springs going forward?

Expected challenges include reduced recharge to the groundwater system in the event of below average rainfall during wet seasons.

10. What budget allocation have you given to rectify water supply issues around Berry Springs for the next five years?

Budget allocations are provided through the following functions of monitoring the resource, assessment of the resource, water planning and regulation and water licencing and regulation.

Figure 1

Department of
ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND WATER SECURITY

Berry Springs groundwater levels

● August 2021 level

