



Media Statement

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Desalinated water increasingly important to Perth

Desalination secured its place as Perth's second most important source of drinking water in the year ending June 2015, according to a report on water, sewerage and irrigation performance, released today by the Economic Regulation Authority (ERA).

ERA governing body member, Dr Stephen King, said 40 per cent of Perth's drinking water was sourced from desalination in 2015, with groundwater supplying 41 per cent.

"This contrasts with 2010, when just 12 per cent of Perth's drinking water was sourced from desalination," Dr King said.

"The increased volume of water sourced from desalination served to offset the fall in the volume of water sourced from surface water (dams) and meet increased demand," he said.

"In regional towns, just over 90 per cent of sourced water came from groundwater.

"While the proportion of water sourced from groundwater, recycling and bulk water remained relatively unchanged in 2015, recycling is expected to increase when the Water Corporation brings its new groundwater replenishment plant into service in 2016."

Dr King said other findings in the report included breaks to Perth's water mains increased to a peak of 15 breaks per 100km of mains in 2015. This coincided with an increase in the frequency of supply interruptions to 314 per 1,000 properties, but the average length of each interruption was lower at 96 minutes.

"Despite the record number of water mains breaks, Perth residents appeared satisfied with the Water Corporation's customer service as water complaints remained at record low levels," he said.

"In terms of supply, the state's largest supplier of irrigation water, Ord Irrigation Cooperative, reported a 53 per cent increase in the volume of water supplied to customers between 2014 and 2015, reaching a six year high of 146,541ML.

"Ord Irrigation attributed this increase to a drier than usual wet season in early 2015 which required the supply of more irrigated water for agricultural purposes."

Dr King said another finding of the report was average residential water consumption across the Perth metropolitan area reaching a six year low in 2015, with the average household consuming

244kL. According to the Water Corporation, water consumption increased during the subsequent warm spring period; water use in Perth was 8.7GL over target by December 2015.

The purpose of the report is to ensure transparency of the providers of water, sewerage and irrigation services in WA. The report focuses on towns with greater than 1,000 properties connected to water supply and sewerage schemes.

A copy of the full report can be found on the [ERA website](#).

- The performance of the State's four largest urban water utilities will be examined more closely in the National Performance Report 2014-15: Urban Water Utilities, which is due to be published in 2016.

ENDS

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