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INCISIVE INSIGHT

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Water use defended

CLAIMS that Kwinana industries were "water guzzlers" are ridiculous, the Water Corporation said this week.

In response to media reports that industry in Kwinana used more than its fair share of water, Water Corporation spokesman Phil Kneebone pointed to two recent awards for water use won by companies on the Kwinana industrial strip.

CSBP and Tiwest won in two categories in this year's State Water Awards for wise water use.

He said to claim that industries in Kwinana were "water guzzlers" was ridiculous.

"Consumption of scheme water by Kwinana users, in fact, accounts for only 2 per cent, or 5.5 gigalitres, of the current annual total use of 265 gigalitres," he said.

"That is definitely not statistics to support claims of major water use. There are no water guzzlers on the strip."

Mr Kneebone said 70 per cent of Perth's scheme water was used by households with industry across WA accounting for 20 per cent of water use. He said the Kwinana Water Reclamation Plant provided six gigalitres of water annually to industrial customers, which kept down the use of scheme water by Kwinana companies.

His comments came as the Kwinana Industries Council welcomed the recommendations of a water planning study for the area to improve water use.

Council director Tonia Swetman said the study was a way to continue the good work industry had already started.

"The KIC initiated and funded the study to support Kwinana industry's continuing efforts to increase use of industry wastewater and to decrease reliance on scheme water," she said.

Ms Swetman said the council would implement the recommendations in the study, however the report would not be released until later in the year.

Mr Kneebone said the Water Corporation had water officers to help industry reduce its use and one officer worked with Kwinana industry full-time.

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