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## **Water pipes better managed than in 2014, but losses still too high**

The Auditor General today tabled in Parliament the [\*Water Corporation: Management of Water Pipes – Follow-Up\*](#) report.

Auditor General Ms Caroline Spencer said since our 2014 audit the Water Corporation has improved its management of its 35,000 km water pipe network.

It has upgraded pipes in Fremantle and Perth and has a much better understanding of its pipe network, which supports sound decisions about maintaining and replacing pipes.

However, the volume of unbilled water, including losses from leaks and bursts, has risen across the network.

The 2014 audit highlighted the need to reduce the amount of water lost from the supply network and it is disappointing to find no evidence of a consistent reduction in water loss.

Last year, just under 52 billion litres of water was supplied but not billed. This included water for firefighting and lost to theft, inaccurate meters and pipe leaks and bursts.

Ms Spencer said while some loss is unavoidable, this is too high. The management and use of water in a sustainable way is a shared responsibility.

'The Western Australian community is very aware that water is a precious resource and have responded to the waterwise messages about responsible water use.

'Around 30 billion litres of last year's unbilled water was in metropolitan Perth, equivalent to 30% of the capacity of the Southern Seawater Desalination Plant and enough water to give over a million Perth residents a 7-minute shower each day for a year.

'My report recommends addressing leaking pipes. Reducing water loss should be high on the Water Corporation's agenda,' Ms Spencer said.

### **Report resources**

- [PDF version](#)
- [summary video](#)