Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Friday, 26 May 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Water Supply

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (8.39 am): As I have been outlining this week, my government is rolling out a detailed plan to ensure that south-east Queensland has sufficient water supplies for many decades to come. In the next 20 years, the population of south-east Queensland is expected to increase by 1.2 million people. Our current rate of population growth, sustained drought and a change in rainfall patterns due to climate change has led my government to fast-track plans to secure water supplies.

The south-east region is currently using 450,000 megalitres of water per year. The new projects underway will increase our water supply by 330,000 megalitres by the end of 2011. The projects include helping south-east Queensland residents to help themselves: $20 million to install water-saving devices, rainwater tanks and stopping leaks. We are investing $14 million to fast-track the investigation of desalination. Investigations are also underway into recycled water technology to pump recycled water to businesses for industrial use.

Today, I am pleased to provide the House with a table which outlines the estimated water supplies to be provided by our plan. Of course, work is continuing on some elements of the plan. The people of south-east Queensland can be sure their water supplies are secure. When complete, our plan will provide hundreds of thousands of additional megalitres of precious water.

I am also pleased to provide a series of information sheets, which are now available, on the south-east Queensland water plan. I seek leave to incorporate those into *Hansard* for the information of all members.

Leave granted.

Natural Resources, Mines and Water

Managing Queensland's natural resources ... for today and tomorrow

Water for south-east Queensland's future

Background

Over the past decade the south-east Queensland region has experienced significant and rapid growth in water consumption due to population growth and to changes in the use of water in industry and the home. Based on the most recent projections, it is expected that the population will increase by another 1.2 million people over the next 20 years. The recent extended drought in eastern Australia has stressed water supplies in south-east Queensland. As a result, restrictions, aimed at reducing the consumption of water for non-essential activities, have been introduced across the region and new supply measures are being advanced.

What are the current and future demands on water supply sources?

Current residential water consumption in south-east Queensland is approximately 290 litres per person per day. The South East Queensland Regional Plan is seeking to achieve a reduction in residential demand to 270 litres per person per day by 2010, and 230 litres per person per day by 2020. Studies indicate that, while it may be difficult to achieve the 2020 target, it is possible if everyone works together now.

Progress has been made in reducing water demands. In 1995, residential demand was 450 litres per person per day. This significant reduction in consumption was originally achieved mainly through education. In more recent times, demand reduction strategies have become more sophisticated and personalised. With state and Commonwealth support, councils have introduced pressure reduction and leakage management strategies. National, state and local systems have been put in place to encourage the use of water-efficient appliances, and integrated urban water management strategies, involving the use of rainwater tanks and recycling water for purposes other than drinking, have been introduced.

While water use by individuals is expected to continue to decline, population growth means the demand in south-east Queensland is anticipated to grow from about 450 000 megalitres per annum in 2006, to about 560 000 megalitres per annum in 2026, and about 700 000 megalitres per annum in 2050.

How to cope with competing demands in the region?

Security of water services for a large and geographically diverse region like south-east Queensland requires a multi-pronged approach involving demand reduction and strategies to increase supply to meet future water needs. No single mechanism will ensure adequate supply security. The current drought has demonstrated that existing surface storages are vulnerable to climate variability and long-term climate change.

To lessen the effects of drought and increasing demands on existing water supplies, the Queensland Government has been working jointly with affected local governments on the South East Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy (SEQRWSS) to ensure the adequacy of current and future water supplies for the area.

Under the SEQRWSS, a range of options to meet the water requirements of the region and to allow for future growth is being addressed. Water conservation measures are being implemented and a water grid is being established to secure the region's water supply. All possible strategies, including upgrading existing dams, building new dams, desalination and water recycling, are being investigated with a view to ensuring an adequate supply of water throughout the region. Only limited groundwater supplies can be accessed sustainably in south-east Queensland.

Information sheet 1

Queensland Government
Natural Resources, Mines and Water

The Queensland Government has announced a range of projects designed to meet the long-term water needs of south-east Queensland. These include the Western Corridor Recycled Water scheme, which will initially supply water to power stations and industry in western areas, but will possibly extend to rural areas in the future; investigations at the proposed Traveston Dam site on the Mary River; investigations to determine whether or not to proceed with Tilley's Bridge Dam or Wyaralong Dam—both in the Logan River basin; and support for local government for pressure reduction and leakage management, and other water efficiency measures. In addition, the Queensland Government is working with Gold Coast City Council on a proposed desalination plant at Tugun.

These projects, along with measures being introduced to reduce demand, provide a diversified supply strategy to meet the region's future water needs. The geographic spread of the dams and the introduction of supplies that are not affected by rainfall variability will reduce the region's vulnerability to climate impacts. Additionally, the long-term water needs of the region will all be met in order to provide for its secure growth from Noosa to the north, to Toowoomba and neighbouring shires in the west, and the Gold Coast to the south. The proposed Traveston Dam along with Paradise Dam to the north will provide water supply security for the Gympie-Wide Bay area.

Further information

Further information is available on www.nrm.qld.gov.au/water and www.seqwaterstrategy.qld.gov.au. A hotline has been established to address questions and to take advice from the community. The hotline phone number is 1800 243 585.

Natural Resources, Mines and Water

Managing Queensland's natural resources ... for today and tomorrow

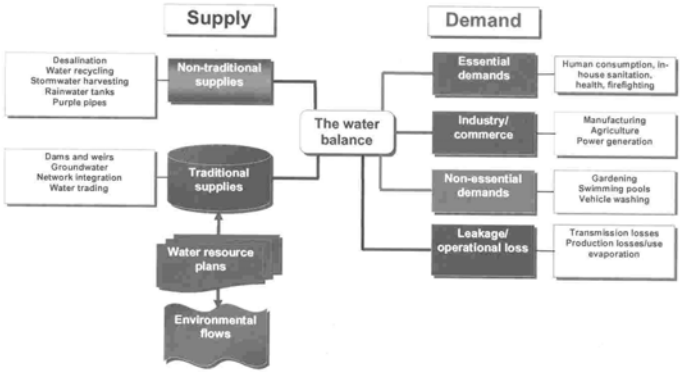
Balancing water supply and demand

Background

Managing urban infrastructure is a complex issue and over the last decade, society has placed increased value on environmental outcomes for water infrastructure. Traditional approaches in water supply planning have been directed towards supply management, such as investing in construction of new dams, weirs and pipelines, and upgrading existing water supply infrastructure to meet increasing water demands.

However, effective water supply planning requires the balancing of supply and demand; this includes allowing for the needs of the environment. Demand management involves reducing losses, improving water-use efficiencies, and using substitute sources of water. In order to meet future requirements, water planning needs to assess how much water can be gained from demand management strategies.

The following diagram illustrates the supply options and water demands considered in achieving the water balance.



The most secure water balance is achieved through a range of supply and demand approaches.

What demand management incentives are there?

The state government is actively working with local government on numerous water-use efficiency and demand management strategies, such as:

- pressure reduction
- water main repairs/replacement
- leakage control
- water audits
- water restrictions
- education about conservation.

All these measures are linked to improved environmental outcomes for the waterways, streams, rivers and oceans.

Information sheet 2

Queensland Government
Natural Resources, Mines and Water

What are the issues associated with rainwater tanks?

Rainwater tanks can be effective in supplementing supply and reducing the demand on our dams and groundwater supplies. Rainwater tanks can be utilised to reduce the demands on water reticulation systems during peak demand periods. They can also play a role in reducing stormwater peak run-off from urban development.

In a typical urban environment in south-east Queensland, a rainwater tank may provide between 30% and 60% of household water demands (e.g. washing machines, toilets, gardens). However, this varies depending on season and geographic location. In areas with highly variable rainfall, a backup of a secure alternative supply arrangements is required.

It should be noted that:

- rainwater tanks may need to be replaced every 25 to 30 years
- retrofitting rainwater tanks into existing dwellings for indoor use will involve additional cost associated with new plumbing if maximum benefits are to occur
- not all existing dwellings can be retrofitted to accommodate a tank
- pumps associated with rainwater tanks are generally less efficient (than large mains pumps) and may put additional load on the electricity network, especially if many are installed
- there may be health impacts associated with mosquito breeding, depending upon how well the tanks are maintained over the years (refer to the recently released Queensland Health Rainwater Tank Policy at www.health.qld.gov.au).

Local governments have the power under the Standard Building Regulation 1993 to mandate the installation of rainwater tanks in new homes (attached or detached houses). Through this process, local governments need to specify whether the water from the rainwater tank is to be used either externally (e.g. for gardening) or for both external and internal uses (e.g. gardening, toilet flushing and washing machines), and may specify the minimum size of the rainwater tank. Six councils in South East Queensland have mandated tanks for new dwellings.

Further information

Further information is available on www.nrm.qld.gov.au/water and www.seqwaterstrategy.qld.gov.au. A hotline has been established to address questions and to take advice from the community. The hotline phone number is 1800 243 585.

Natural Resources, Mines and Water

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What about recycling and desalination?

Background

In April 2006, the Queensland Government announced its intention to investigate the feasibility of building two new dams in south-east Queensland. One of these is located on the Mary River at a site called Traveston, approximately 16 kilometres south of Gympie. The other is on the Logan River at a site called Tilley's Bridge, approximately one kilometre south of Rathdowney. On the completion of relevant investigations, the Queensland Government will make a choice between this site and the previously identified Wyaralong site on the Logan River. The investigation of new storage infrastructure is a result of work completed on the South East Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy (SEQRWSS).

Under the SEQRWSS, a range of other options to meet the future water needs of south-east Queensland is being assessed. The measures being investigated include:

- water conservation to reduce daily water consumption per person
- water tanks to reduce the need for new bulk water supplies
- saving water by reducing mains pressure and fixing leaky pipes
- desalination of sea water
- water recycling to industry.

Why not build recycling and desalination plants now?

Desalination and water recycling are potentially viable longer-term water supply solutions. Technology is improving at a rapid rate. In the future, desalination may become economical and the recycling of water for potable purposes may be accepted by the community.

In the mean time, dams are still the most economical source of bulk water in south-east Queensland and recycling will generally be confined to industrial and other appropriate applications such as irrigation.

Desalination may be implemented as an emergency drought measure. However studies indicate that there are very few suitable desalination sites along the whole of the south-east Queensland coastline. The Tugun site identified by the Gold Coast City Council is one potential location.

Recycling and desalination are feasible options

A major water recycling project, which is aimed at producing reclaimed water mainly for industry, is underway. Known as the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme, the project plans to capture waste water from various waste water treatment plants, treat it to a very high standard and pipe it to major industrial users such as power stations. The scheme also has the potential to provide substantial quantities of water for irrigated agriculture west of Brisbane, and to provide high-grade water to supplement existing surface water storages (indirect potable reuse).

Preliminary investigations into the feasibility of desalination are also underway as part of the SEQRWSS. Desalination plants must be strategically located because they require a large electricity source to operate large-scale filtration systems, and the waste brine needs to be disposed of in a way that does not adversely affect human health or the environment.

Population projections to the middle of this century indicate that dams alone will not meet future demand. Therefore, by the year 2056, dams, desalination, recycling, and domestic tanks will all be supplying water to consumers in the region.

Queensland Government
Natural Resources, Mines and Water

Further Information

Further information is available on www.nrm.qld.gov.au/water and www.seqwaterstrategy.qld.gov.au. A hotline has been established to address questions and to take advice from the community. The hotline phone number is 1800 243 585.

Natural Resources, Mines and Water

Managing Queensland's natural resources ... for today and tomorrow

Why build dams?

Background

In April 2006, the Queensland Government announced its intention to investigate the feasibility of building two new dams in south-east Queensland. One of these is located on the Mary River at a site called Traveston, approximately 16 kilometres south of Gympie. The other is on the Logan River at a site called Tilley's Bridge, approximately one kilometre south of Rathdowney. On the completion of relevant investigations, the Queensland Government will make a choice between this site and the previously identified Wyaralong site on the Logan River. The investigation of new storage infrastructure is a result of work completed on the South East Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy (SEQRWSS).

Why build dams?

A diverse strategy, involving increasing water supplies and reducing water demand, is needed to meet south-east Queensland's long-term water needs.

The water storage provided by dams enables areas that receive irregular rainfall to obtain a reliable and consistent supply of water. Water from dams is in most cases still cheaper than supply from desalination and water recycling options. Groundwater development opportunities in south-east Queensland are limited.

Building dams involves longer lead times than other water supply options (e.g. desalination and recycling), so in order to plan for the region's growing needs, it is important to commence feasibility studies now.

Why build dams when it doesn't rain?

Dams can store water from river flows even when it's not raining.

Climate change will continue to have an effect on rainfall patterns in south-east Queensland, so it is important to increase the region's capacity to store surface water. Surface storages hold valuable reserves for use during low rainfall years.

Sophisticated techniques are now available to enable the analysis of historical rainfall and streamflow data since about the 1890s. From this, assessments of water availability for human consumption and the environment can be made. Techniques also exist to take account of droughts worse than those on historical record.

Since 2003, the state government has been collaborating with local government and water service providers in south-east Queensland to develop a regional water supply strategy.

South-east Queensland needs a plan to ensure that it never runs out of water. To achieve this, the supplies available from existing dams are being revised down and new dams will be developed as part of a comprehensive water supply strategy addressing supply and demand issues.

Further Information

Further information is available on www.nrm.qld.gov.au/water and www.seqwaterstrategy.qld.gov.au. A hotline has been established to address questions and to take advice from the community. The hotline phone number is 1800 243 585.

Information sheet 4

Queensland Government
Natural Resources, Mines and Water

Natural Resources, Mines and Water

Managing Queensland's natural resources ... for today and tomorrow

Why Traveston Dam?

Background

Water infrastructure is being fast-tracked across south-east Queensland to tackle the impact of drought, climate change and a booming population. The decision to proceed with the investigation of new storage infrastructure is part of work on the South East Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy (SEQRWSS). Under the SEQRWSS, a range of options to meet the water requirements of the region and to allow for future growth is being assessed. The Traveston dam site, in the Mary River catchment north of Brisbane, has been identified as a potential new water storage.

Why are additional water supplies being sourced?

Population projections indicate that the number of people living in the South East Queensland Region could increase by more than one million in the next 20 years, with further growth beyond this. This will place enormous pressure on our water supplies. Even if stringent measures to manage water demand are adopted, it will be necessary to provide large quantities of additional water.

In the past, individual councils managed water on a local basis. The significant population increases experienced in recent years, in addition to the population growth expected over the next two decades, have necessitated a major change in the way we manage our precious water resources.

No longer can we manage water on a local basis. That is why the Queensland Government gained agreement from local councils to establish the new Water Commission to lead whole-of-region solutions. This new integrated approach will ensure that dams and interconnecting pipelines will be built to service the entire region rather than just local communities.

Dams are of course just one part of a broader strategy that includes better utilising and conserving the water already in existing dams, cutting waste and excess use, and investigating new technologies including recycling and desalination. Homeowners and businesses will also be assisted to use less water and to capture their own rainwater supplies where possible through the use of tanks and water-saving devices.

Why Traveston Dam?

Traveston, on the upper Mary River, has been identified as a possible site for a dam in the Mary catchment. The site has been identified for further assessment based on its capacity to deliver large quantities of reliable water. In the Mary Valley, at least four extra storages would need to be built to provide a similar quantity of water as the proposed dam at Traveston.

Preliminary studies indicate that the storage could hold as much as 660 000 megalitres, boosting available supplies for growing communities living and working in the Mary Valley, Sunshine Coast and other parts of south-east Queensland.

If a dam at the Traveston site proceeds, it will be necessary to purchase land for the construction of the dam and the storage. This will include some land above the full supply level of the storage to provide flood margin and water quality protection zones.

Where and when will it be built?

The final decision is dependent on various Commonwealth and state government approvals, which are still required. On-ground geotechnical and other assessments and must be completed before these approvals can be obtained, but Traveston is the Queensland Government's preferred site.

Queensland Government
Natural Resources, Mines and Water

The site is approximately 16 kilometres south of Gympie, near Traveston Crossing on the Mary River. Property owners likely to be affected by the project will continue to receive detailed information on the plans directly from the Queensland Government.

Construction is scheduled for completion by the end of 2011.

What about the impacts of the dam?

The construction of Traveston Dam, if it proceeds, will have substantial social and economic benefits for south-east Queenslanders, supporting long-term growth and prosperity. Unfortunately, the construction of a major dam also impacts on people who live in the area, the local economy and the environment. Therefore, a decision taken to build a dam is usually a difficult one and every effort is made to mitigate these impacts. As part of the feasibility assessments for the dam, a range of environmental, social, and economic studies must be undertaken and appropriate approvals obtained. These impact assessment studies involve extensive community consultation.

Further information

Further information is available on www.nrm.qld.gov.au/water. A hotline has been established to address questions and to take advice from the community. The hotline phone number is 1800 243 585.

Natural Resources, Mines and Water

Managing Queensland's natural resources ... for today and tomorrow

Why Tilley's Bridge Dam?

Background

Water infrastructure is being fast-tracked across south-east Queensland to tackle the impact of drought, climate change and a booming population. The decision to investigate new storage infrastructure is part of work on the South East Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy (SEQRWSS). The SEQRWSS is assessing a range of options to meet the water requirements of the region and to allow for future growth. The Tilley's Bridge dam site, in the Logan River catchment, south of Brisbane, has been identified as a potential new water storage.

Why are additional water supplies being sourced?

Population projections indicate that the number of people living in the South-East Queensland Region could increase by more than one million in the next 20 years, with further growth beyond this. This will place enormous pressure on our water supplies. Even if stringent measures to manage water demand are adopted, it will be necessary to provide large quantities of additional water.

In the past, individual councils managed water on a local basis. The significant population increases experienced in recent years, in addition to the population growth expected over the next two decades, have necessitated a major change in the way we manage our precious water resources.

No longer can we manage water on a local basis. That is why the Queensland Government gained agreement from local councils to establish the new Water Commission to lead whole-of-region solutions. This integrated approach is that new dams and interconnecting pipelines will be built to help the entire region rather than just local communities.

Dams are of course just one part of a broader strategy that includes better utilising and conserving the water already in existing dams, cutting waste and excess use, and investigating new technologies including recycling and desalination. Homeowners and businesses will be assisted to use less water and to capture their own rainwater supplies where possible through the use of rainwater tanks and water saving devices.

Why Tilley's Bridge dam?

Tilley's Bridge on the upper Logan River has been identified as a possible site for a dam in the Beaudesert area. The Tilley's Bridge site has been selected because of its potential to provide significant quantities of water to meet the needs of the growing population of south east Queensland. A dam at this site would provide the same amount of water as Wyaralong and Glendower Dams combined and at less cost. Also, a single dam would impact on one river instead of two.

Preliminary studies indicate that the storage could hold as much as 230 000 megalitres, boosting available supplies for the growing communities living and working in the Beaudesert, Logan and Gold Coast areas. If the Tilley's Bridge site is selected, it will be necessary to purchase land for the construction of the dam and the storage. This would include some land above the full supply level of the storage to provide a flood margin and water quality protection zones.

Does this mean the proposed Wyaralong Dam will not be built?

As part of this process, the government is re-examining the existing proposal for the Wyaralong Dam site compared with the Tilley's Bridge site. A detailed investigation, including geotechnical works, will be carried out to determine which site will deliver the best overall results. If Tilley's Bridge proves to be the better site, Wyaralong Dam will not be built.

Information sheet 6

Queensland Government
Natural Resources, Mines and Water

Where and when will the dam be built?

The final decision is dependent on various Commonwealth and state government approvals, which are still required. On-ground geotechnical and other assessments all need to be carried before these approvals can be obtained.

If Tilley's Bridge is identified as the best location on the Logan River, construction will be scheduled for completion by the end 2011. Detailed investigations, including foundation drilling, will commence as soon as arrangements can be made with the landholders. Subject to the results of these investigations, work on detailed designs will commence and the required approvals will be obtained.

What about the impacts of the dam?

The construction of Tilley's Dam, if it proceeds, will have substantial social and economic benefits for south-east Queenslanders, supporting future growth and prosperity. Unfortunately, the construction of a major new dam also impacts on people who live in the area, the local economy and the environment. Therefore, a decision taken to build a dam is a difficult one, and every effort is made to mitigate these impacts. As part of the feasibility assessments for the dam, a range of environmental, social, and economic studies must be undertaken and appropriate approvals obtained. These impact assessment studies involve extensive community consultation.

Further Information

Further information is available on www.nrm.qld.gov.au/water. A hotline has been established to address questions and to take advice from the community. The hotline phone number is 1800 243 585.

Natural Resources, Mines and Water

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Process and timelines for building a dam

Background

In April 2006, the Queensland Government announced its intention to investigate the feasibility of building two new dams in south-east Queensland. One of these is located on the Mary River at a site called Traveston, approximately 16 kilometres south of Gympie. Another dam will be built on the Logan River site at Tilley's Bridge, approximately one kilometre south of Rathdowney is currently being investigated. On the completion of relevant investigations, the Queensland Government will make a choice between this site and the previously identified Wyaralong site on the Logan River. The investigation of new storage infrastructure is a result of work completed on the South East Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy (SEQRWSS).

What happens first?

The government has given a commitment to the people of Queensland that a decision on whether or not to proceed with plans to build dams at the Traveston and Tilley's Bridge sites will be made after preliminary on-site investigations have been completed. At present, preliminary geotechnical investigations are underway to determine the suitability of rock foundations for constructing a dam wall at each of these sites. If the Tilley's Bridge site is deemed satisfactory, it will replace the Wyaralong dam site as the government's preferred option in the Logan River basin.

What happens next?

Site investigations will be carried out over coming weeks. This will enable additional data to be produced on the quantities of water that could be supplied, and the associated costs and other impacts. Each of the scenarios will be tested against economic, environmental and social criteria to determine the best arrangement to meet the region's long-term needs.

Preliminary studies will be used to identify the locations of both dams. Once the decision on the final location is made there will be on-going studies into:

- social and landholder impacts
- geotechnical appraisals of the site
- aquatic animal impacts
- native vegetation impacts
- cultural heritage impacts
- economic evaluation
- reliability and performance
- riverine conservation values assessment.

Some of these studies are likely to be ongoing over the next two to three years and will support detailed impact assessments.

How will the decision be made?

When all the information is available on projected future demands and the options available to supply additional water, an assessment will be made of the best way to meet the future water needs of the region. A number of possible scenarios will be formulated and assessed against multiple criteria, which will include cost effectiveness; environmental, cultural and social impact; strategic value; and reliability of the sources.

Information sheet 7

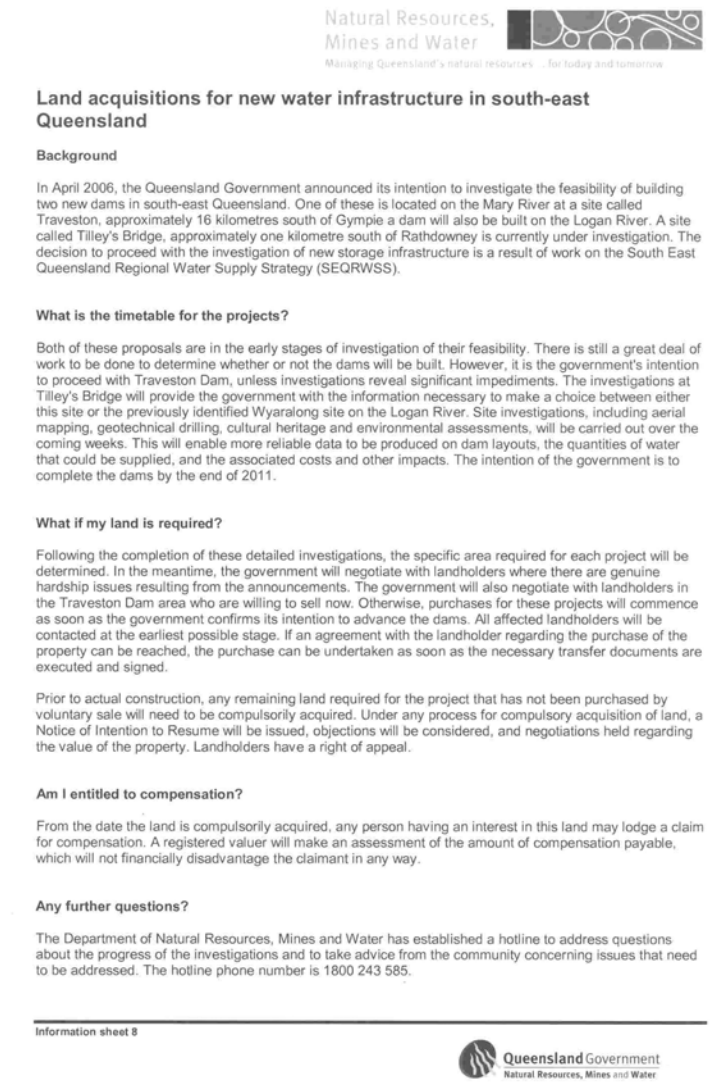
Queensland Government
Natural Resources, Mines and Water

When will it be constructed?

The government's target completion date is the end of 2011. Before construction can commence, it will be necessary to complete the studies mentioned above, obtain approvals, and design the structure. This process could take two years or more.

Further Information

Further information is available on www.nrm.qld.gov.au/water. A hotline has been established to address questions and to take advice from the community. The hotline phone number is 1800 243 585.



Natural Resources, Mines and Water

Managing Queensland's natural resources ...for today and tomorrow

Land acquisitions for new water infrastructure in south-east Queensland

Background

In April 2006, the Queensland Government announced its intention to investigate the feasibility of building two new dams in south-east Queensland. One of these is located on the Mary River at a site called Traveston, approximately 16 kilometres south of Gympie a dam will also be built on the Logan River. A site called Tilley's Bridge, approximately one kilometre south of Rathdowney is currently under investigation. The decision to proceed with the investigation of new storage infrastructure is a result of work on the South East Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy (SEQRWSS).

What is the timetable for the projects?

Both of these proposals are in the early stages of investigation of their feasibility. There is still a great deal of work to be done to determine whether or not the dams will be built. However, it is the government's intention to proceed with Traveston Dam, unless investigations reveal significant impediments. The investigations at Tilley's Bridge will provide the government with the information necessary to make a choice between either this site or the previously identified Wyaralong site on the Logan River. Site investigations, including aerial mapping, geotechnical drilling, cultural heritage and environmental assessments, will be carried out over the coming weeks. This will enable more reliable data to be produced on dam layouts, the quantities of water that could be supplied, and the associated costs and other impacts. The intention of the government is to complete the dams by the end of 2011.

What if my land is required?

Following the completion of these detailed investigations, the specific area required for each project will be determined. In the meantime, the government will negotiate with landholders where there are genuine hardship issues resulting from the announcements. The government will also negotiate with landholders in the Traveston Dam area who are willing to sell now. Otherwise, purchases for these projects will commence as soon as the government confirms its intention to advance the dams. All affected landholders will be contacted at the earliest possible stage. If an agreement with the landholder regarding the purchase of the property can be reached, the purchase can be undertaken as soon as the necessary transfer documents are executed and signed.

Prior to actual construction, any remaining land required for the project that has not been purchased by voluntary sale will need to be compulsorily acquired. Under any process for compulsory acquisition of land, a Notice of Intention to Resume will be issued, objections will be considered, and negotiations held regarding the value of the property. Landholders have a right of appeal.

Am I entitled to compensation?

From the date the land is compulsorily acquired, any person having an interest in this land may lodge a claim for compensation. A registered valuer will make an assessment of the amount of compensation payable, which will not financially disadvantage the claimant in any way.

Any further questions?

The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water has established a hotline to address questions about the progress of the investigations and to take advice from the community concerning issues that need to be addressed. The hotline phone number is 1800 243 585.

Information sheet 8

Queensland Government
Natural Resources, Mines and Water

Tabled paper: Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water Information Sheets Nos 1 to 8 relating to water supply in South East Queensland

Mr BEATTIE: They provide detailed explanations of the region's water use, our future needs and the steps we are taking to ensure that there will be sufficient water supplies to meet the needs of our ever-increasing population.

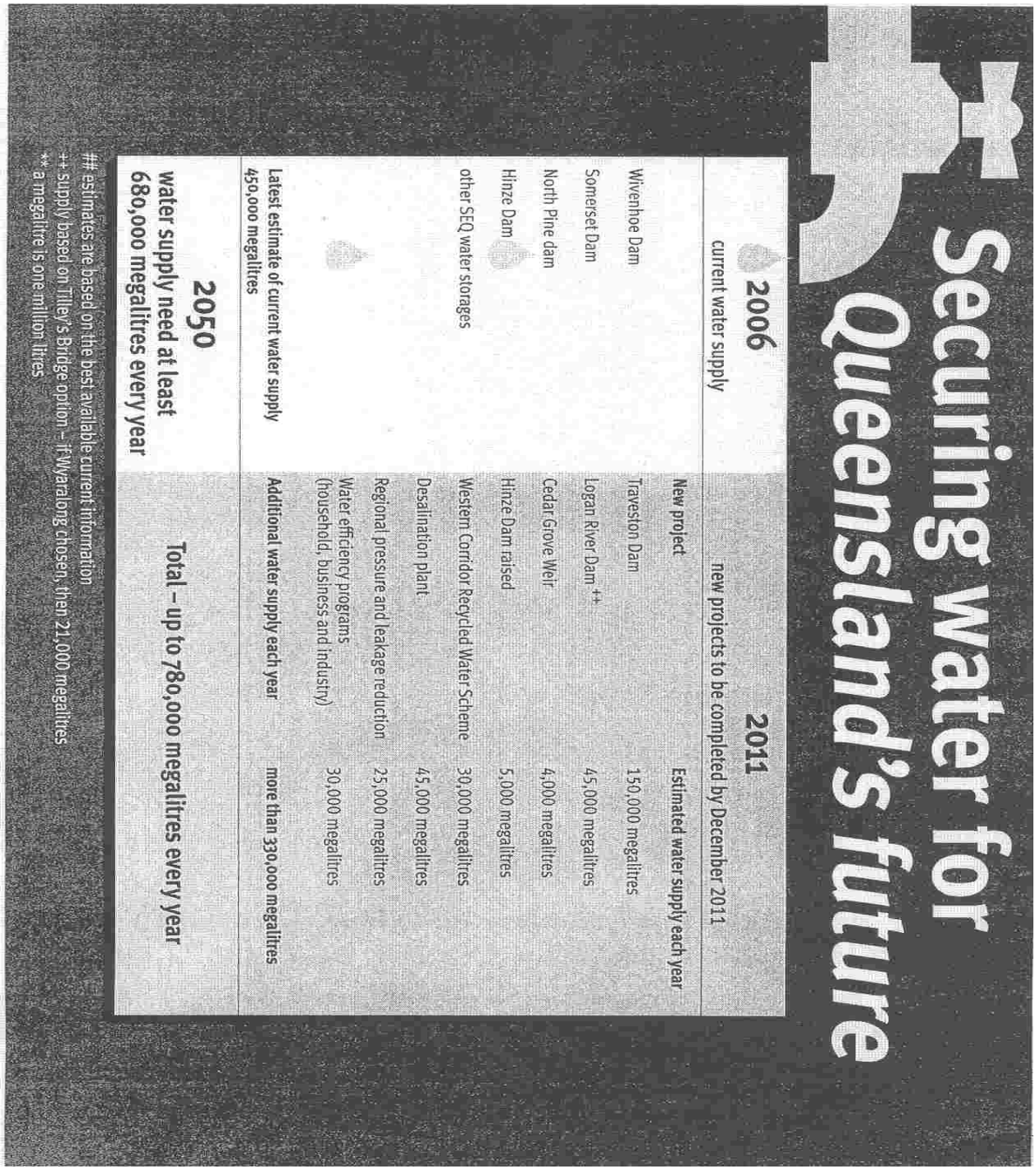
I draw this chart I am holding to the attention of all members. It highlights exactly what we are doing about securing the future water needs of Queensland. If one looks at 2006, one can see our limited supply. It shows Wivenhoe Dam, Somerset Dam, North Pine Dam, Hinze Dam and other south-east Queensland water storages. The latest estimate of water supply needs, or the estimate of current water supply, is 450,000 megalitres. That is the thin list of what we are doing now.

By 2011, under our water grid strategy, the figure I am pointing to will be the number of sources available, that is, eight sources. We will have the Traveston Dam with 150,000 megalitres and the Logan River Dam with 45,000 megalitres, although that depends on whether we choose Wyaralong. If it is chosen, it will have 21,000 megalitres. We will have the Cedar Grove Weir with 4,000 megalitres, the Hinze Dam with 5,000 megalitres, the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme with 30,000 megalitres, the desalination plant with 45,000 megalitres, regional pressure and leakage reduction of 25,000 megalitres, and water efficiency programs of 30,000 megalitres. Therefore, the additional water supply each year is more than 330,000 megalitres.

Why have we done that? It is because of the estimates of what we will need by the year 2050. We estimate that the water supply will need to be at least 680,000 megalitres every year. This will provide up to 780,000 megalitres.

This is the first time that Queensland has had a real vision for the future supply of water in the south-east corner of the state. We do not have a 30-second fix, which is what the opposition has. We have a real plan. As members know, the opposition is one dam short of a plan. That is what they have. As Henry Palaszczuk, the minister for water, said the other day, 'Look, they have shrunk the dam.' It is like ringing home and saying, 'Mum, they have shrunk my brain.' That is what that opposition's plan is all about. I seek leave to incorporate that chart into *Hansard* because members opposite need to be well informed.

Leave granted.



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