

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 210

asked on Tuesday, 27 April 2004

MR SEENEY ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (MR ROBERTSON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 30—

What dams were compliant with the spillway safety standards as defined by the Australian National Committee on Large Dams for each of the last three years?

ANSWER:

Under the provisions of Chapter 3, Part 6 of the *Water Act 2000*, the Chief Executive of my Department only regulates dams where an estimated two or more people would be at risk from a dam collapse. As my Department does not regulate any other dams, my response is confined to those dams.

The Australian National Committee on Large Dams (or ANCOLD) periodically releases dam safety guidelines. The most recent ANCOLD guidelines were released in late 2003, outlining methods for determining acceptable dam design, including spillways.

To assess dam spillway adequacy, rainfall and flood modelling data is required for each dam and its catchment. In late 2003 the Bureau of Meteorology released its revised rainfall estimates for northern Australia.

To assess whether dams comply with the new ANCOLD guidelines, detailed engineering studies using these revised flood estimates are required, and these will take place over the next three years.

Until these studies have been completed, it cannot be determined which dams are compliant with the new ANCOLD guidelines.
