

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 771

**asked on Friday, 18 June 2004**

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

QUESTION:

Will he provide an update on the progress of the proposed weir on the Gilbert River at Green Hills, near Georgetown?

ANSWER:

The Gilbert catchment is included in the Gulf Water Resource Plan area. In developing this plan I will be considering identified future water needs, the security of water entitlements and the maintenance of the riverine environment and aquatic ecosystems.

The Agricultural Land and Water Resource Assessment Report, a supporting document to the development of the Gulf Water Resource Plan, was released in May 2004. The proposed Green Hills Dam was reviewed in this report and confirmed as a structural approach to meet potential future water needs and is not limited by soil suitability. Although a number of crop systems were deemed to be potentially suitable, no economic advantage of developing this area was identified.

The proposed Green Hills Dam is estimated to have a storage capacity of 131,000 megalitres and cost in the order of \$36 million to construct.

In my Information Report to the Gulf Water Resource Plan, I stated that the planning process would consider additional water for stock, domestic, mining, urban and irrigation for fodder production from the Gilbert River.

The Information Report also stated that water to accommodate the proposed Green Hills Dam will not be allocated during the ten year life of this Plan due to the lack of an identified economically and ecologically sustainable use.

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