

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1010

asked on Wednesday 7 June 2006

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MR LINGARD ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND WATER (MR PALASZCZUK)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the 1991 Water Resources report on the two Teviot Brook (Wyaralong) dam sites at Braford Hills and “The Yards” which show that the dams at 176,000 megalitre capacity yield 25,990 megalitre and 27,810 megalitre per annum respectively—

Why has the Government reduced the yield figure to 20,000 megalitre in its publicity?

ANSWER:

On 4 July 2006, the Queensland Government announced its plan to build the Wyaralong Dam and Bromelton Offstream Storage in the Logan River catchment as well as raise the Hinze Dam and water-harvest into it from Canungra Creek, Coomera River and other suitable locations.

The Government also confirmed it would not proceed with the alternative option of building a dam at Tilley's Bridge.

The four projects announced by the Government are projected to provide an additional 42,000 megalitres each year. It is projected half of this additional yield – 21,000 megalitres each year – will be provided following construction of Wyaralong Dam to operate in conjunction with the Cedar Grove Weir, which is already being progressed.

On 5 July 2006, the Government announced its plan for a staged Traveston Dam and a raised Borumba Dam in the Mary River catchment.

With this announcement, the Government publicly released a number of reports including the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water's (NRMW) report “Water for South East Queensland: A long term solution”. This report is available at [www.nrm.qld.gov.au](http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au).

The yield for planned water infrastructure projects, including Wyaralong Dam and Cedar Grove Weir, are detailed in this report on pages 58, 64 and 65. The yields reported are in two classes – “historic no failure yield” and “prudent yield”.

The “historic no failure yield” is the traditional yield estimate based on historical rainfall and streamflow data.

As a result of revised climate modelling – and the increased likelihood of longer dry periods – NRMW believes “historic no failure yields” previously used for water infrastructure planning can no longer be the most accurate basis for yield assumptions.

Therefore, NRMW has adopted the more conservative calculation of “prudent yield”, which takes into account the impacts of climate change.

In terms of the Wyaralong Dam that will operate in conjunction with Cedar Grove Weir, NRMW has projected an “historic no failure yield” of 27,500 megalitres each year and a “prudent yield” of 21,000 megalitres each year. The Government’s announcement refers to its “prudent yield”.

Prudent yield incorporates consideration of climate variability change as well as environmental flow requirements.

The Honourable Member refers to a 1991 Water Resources Report. I am advised the site names The Yards and Braford Hills are no longer used for the siting of the Logan River dam in the area where the Wyaralong Dam will be built.