

Question on Notice
No. 1072
Asked on 8 June 2006

MISS ROBERTS asked the Premier (MR BEATTIE) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the Mary Valley Heritage Rail (MVHR) which is a community organisation which runs the Rattler steam train through the Mary Valley and has been operating for some eight years and is the leading tourist attraction for both the Mary Valley and Cooloola and as the proposed mega dam floods kilometres of the track and one of the stations thus putting the operation in jeopardy—

Will he assure MVHR, the tourist industry of the Mary Valley and the community groups who run the heritage stations, that the Government will meet any costs involved in lifting and rerouting the train track and resiting the station at Kandanga should it be affected by the proposed mega dam as the dam is going to hit the people of the Mary Valley hard enough with the loss of homes and businesses and we need an assurance that the tourist industry, namely the Rattler, is not headed for a watery grave?

ANSWER:

The Government acknowledges the efforts of the community in revitalising and restoring this iconic link to the Mary Valley's heritage. The potential impacts of the proposed dam on the Rattler will be investigated and the community can be assured that they will be consulted on the impacts and options to resolve them.

The proposed impoundment does affect some of the route, however, much of the affected rail line is contained in the buffer zone for the dam and as such may only be affected by occasional flooding.

Ongoing investigations of the impacts of the dam will include an assessment and costing of any appropriate re-routing of the rail above the full supply level of the dam.