

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1518

asked on Wednesday, 29 November 2006

MISS SIMPSON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER AND MINISTER ASSISTING THE PREMIER IN NORTH QUEENSLAND (MR WALLACE)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the \$2m groundwater drilling program which the State Government is conducting in the Nambour-Landsborough basin—

- (1) Was very little or no water found at the first three drilling sites and have all now been abandoned?
- (2) What impact will this failure to find groundwater have on contingency planning and estimates for when the region will run out of water?

ANSWER:

Drilling is still continuing in the Nambour Landsborough Basin after initial drilling at one test site produced an encouraging flow of water.

Earlier drilling at six other sites in the basin did not deliver the expected groundwater supplies and these sites have been abandoned.

The further drilling will be done at a site north of Landsborough which appears to be tapping a different geological formation to the other drilling sites.

The Beattie Government will continue to investigate options to secure additional water supplies, although water conservation and maximising the efficient use of existing water supplies also is essential.

Additional water supplies include the government's commitments for new dams and raising existing dams, a regional water grid, a desalination plant, a recycled water scheme for industry and water-saving programs for business, industry, local councils and households.