

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 187

asked on Wednesday, 1 March 2006

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

QUESTION:

What strategy is in place to conserve our water resources?

ANSWER:

The Government is involved with SEQWater, its customer councils and Redland Shire Council in the development and implementation of a South East Queensland Regional Drought Strategy. The per capita demand being placed on the region's water resources is being reduced through:

- phased restrictions managed by local governments,
- local council supported efficiency and awareness programmes, and
- targeted pressure reduction in the supply network to reduce leakage and some consumption.

The Government has also agreed to provide an initial \$20 million to fast track the Western Corridor Recycling Project. This will involve the use of recycled water to supply the Swanbank and Tarong power stations and potentially other industrial users.

The Brisbane City Council has also recommissioned Lake Manchester and Enoggera Dam and explore groundwater.

Other Government initiatives across the state include:

- the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative which has succeeded in greatly reducing the wastage of groundwater by controlling boreholes and converting open bore drains to pipelines, and
- the Rural Water Use Efficiency Initiative which has helped farmers improve the efficiency of their use of water. Programs have targeted cotton, grain and sugar cane growers; dairy farms; and horticultural producers.

The Government is also involved in the development of Regional Water Supply Strategies for Far North Queensland, Central Queensland and South East Queensland with the aim of reducing demand, improving water use efficiency, and increasing supplies over the short, medium and long term.

Across the state comprehensive water resource planning is occurring to ensure that the needs of the environment are catered for while at the same time identifying the amount of water available for consumptive use.