

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 202

**asked on Wednesday, 1 March 2006**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the issue of Cressbrook Dam riparian releases—

- (1) What is the role of the Cressbrook Creek Water Advisory Committee and who is its chairman?
- (2) When was the last annual general meeting of the committee and when is the next annual general meeting planned?
- (3) When will his department be providing advice to local landholders in relation to the issues raised with him by the delegation at the recent Kingaroy meeting about Cressbrook Creek?

ANSWER:

- (1) The role of the Cressbrook Creek Water Advisory Committee is to provide advice to the Department of Natural Resources Mines and Water in regard to the Department's water related activities in the area.

I am advised the Chairman is a representative from the Department's Gatton office with the Deputy Chairman being elected from members of the Committee, who are water users in the area.

- (2) The last Annual General Meeting was held on 25 November 2004. The Department has conferred with the Secretary and identified Thursday, 30 March 2006 as a suitable date for the next Annual General Meeting.

- (3) As I indicated in a letter to the Mayor of Esk Shire following the Kingaroy meeting, the security of the urban water supply for Toowoomba is of paramount importance. There has been no relief rain to improve the storage levels of Toowoomba City Council's dams. As Toowoomba's water supplies are at 25% capacity, it is not appropriate to alter the arrangements made for the Cressbrook and Perseverance Dams.

On average, Toowoomba residents use 240 litres per person per day, which is the SEQ Regional Plan water use target for 2020. By comparison, the current South East Queensland regional average is 300 litres per person per day. The people of Toowoomba are acting responsibly in their water use. The Department will reconfirm this advice at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting of the Cressbrook Creek Water Advisory Committee.

The request from the delegation for future riparian releases to be made on a staggered basis and for improved communication and modification in regard to these releases has been referred to the Department. These matters will be considered within the water resource planning process for the Moreton Basin.