

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 635

asked on Tuesday, 9 May 2006

---

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the recent announcement that the Eden Bann Weir will be raised and a new weir will be built at Rookwood—

- (1) How much will each project cost (reported separately) including a breakdown of how much State Government funding will be provided and any other funding that will be used to pay for these projects?
- (2) What role will private enterprise play in the delivery of these projects?
- (3) What is the anticipated start date and completion date for these two projects?

ANSWER:

- (1) Based on desktop studies in November 2005, the estimated cost of the proposed Eden Bann Weir Stage 1 raising is \$27 million, while Stage 2 is estimated to cost an additional \$7.7 million. Similarly, the estimated cost of Rookwood Weir Stage 1 is \$49.6 million and Stage 2 an additional \$4.3 million.

It is expected that the weirs will be developed on a commercial basis. Economic evaluations are yet to be done to determine whether the projects can proceed on a full commercial basis, or whether further State Government funding is appropriate.

- (2) There will be substantial opportunities for private enterprise in both the planning and construction phases. Technical and other studies, as well as construction, are likely to be awarded to private sector consulting and construction firms. Local water service providers (SunWater, Rockhampton City Council – Fitzroy River Water, Gladstone Area Water Board, Mt Morgan Shire Council, Livingstone Shire Council and Fitzroy Shire Council) all have an interest in the development of the weirs. The Coordinator-General and the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water, in consultation with these water service providers will determine future institutional arrangements to apply in relation to the development, ownership and operation of these weirs.

- (3) Consultancies to undertake detailed studies, involving a geotechnical appraisal and environmental and social impacts of the two weir projects are being progressed and will be awarded shortly. These studies are being accelerated and will provide information required for environmental impact studies so the necessary approvals can be obtained with the view of completing these weirs by 2011.