QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 746

asked on Thursday, 11 May 2006

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme—

(1) What is the total volume of water available for this scheme, including the volume from Ipswich?

(2) What is the volume of recycled water required for (a) Swanbank Power Station, (b) Trade Coast Industrial Area, (c) Ebenezer Industrial Area and (d) Tarong and Tarong B Power Stations?

(3) What is the amount left for agriculture?

ANSWER:

I note the Coalition's discredited water document has copied the "Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme" the Government has already committed to under the South East Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy. This Strategy is being developed in partnership with local councils.

(1) Total potential volume of recycled water from wastewater plants at the mouth of the Brisbane River and in the western corridor is estimated at 250 megalitres per day (91,000 megalitres per year). Actual water availability is dependent on the treatment necessary. Where a higher standard of water is needed for industrial purposes, between 10% and 30% may be lost through the discharge of brine.

(2)

(a) Swanbank Power Station (B & E) requires about 21 megalitres per day (7,600 megalitres per year).
(b) Trade Coast Industrial Area requires 15 megalitres per day (5,500 megalitres per year). Projections to year 2026 indicate demand up to 35 megalitres per day (12,800 megalitres per year).
(c) Ebenezer Industrial Area: No specific demand identified at this stage.
(d) Up to 93 megalitres per day of recycled water could potentially be supplied to the Tarong Power Station.

(3) The amount of water that can be made available to irrigators will be determined following completion of the South East Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy. The Strategy will include consideration of the long term water needs for the region and water recycling needs for all industrial, recreational and integrated urban water development. Lockyer Valley irrigators have indicated they require at least 65 megalitres per day (23,725 megalitres per year) for the scheme to be viable to them.