

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 839

asked on Wednesday, 24 May 2006

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

QUESTION:

- (1) Will he give an update on rectification works at Thuringowa's Ross River Dam?
- (2) How much is the State Government contributing?
- (3) What capacity will be added to the dam?

ANSWER:

- (1) Overall construction progress on both the earthworks and spillway activities continued in May 2006 with minimal disruption and delays. I am advised some delays were experienced due to wet weather in March and April. Completion of the works is still expected to be on schedule with a completion date of 30 August 2007.

The preliminary earthworks including preparation of the borrow pits has progressed well. The causeway over the Ross River and associated haul roads have been completed. The construction of the drainage works along the toe of the dam wall has commenced. The placing of additional fill on the downstream face of the embankment has commenced. The Contractor is mobilising additional resources to undertake the balance of the main earthworks activities.

Many activities on the spillway are either now completed or well underway.

The fabrication of the radial and bulkhead spillway gates is in progress in Brisbane.

- (2) The remedial works are expected to cost approximately \$120 million. Under an agreement with NQ Water, the State Government will contribute \$80 million of this cost.
- (3) The capacity of the dam will not change. Due to safety concerns at the dam, following a risk assessment the Full Supply Level was temporarily lowered by 3.55 metres in December 2003 and January 2004. The original Full Supply Level EL 38.21 metres will be reinstated at the completion of the remedial works.