

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 910

asked on Friday 26 May 2006

MS LEE LONG ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND WATER (MR PALASZCZUK)—

QUESTION:

With reference to a number of weirs which were constructed on the Mareeba to Dimbulah irrigation channel network including the Collins, Bruce, Leafgold and Springmount Weirs. Are all of these weirs still open to public access for recreational purposes?

ANSWER:

I am advised the Springmount Weir and Collins Weir are different names for the same weir located on the Walsh River adjacent to what was originally Springmount Station, hence the two names for the same weir. The official name is Collins Weir. The Bruce Weir and Leafgold Weir are located further downstream on the Walsh River.

Dedicated road access is available to the public to the land parcels containing all three weirs. Sunwater has advised they have no issue with people accessing the leased areas, however the public is restricted from entering on to the physical infrastructure of the weirs for safety and security reasons.

Some weirs may have restrictions regarding exclusion zones for protection of fish habitats and/or there may be transport regulations regarding boating restrictions adjacent to the weirs. This would need to be clarified with the relevant agencies.

In relation to the ponded areas, the public generally has access along dedicated roads, to Queensland waterways.

Alternative access to the ponded water area of the Bruce Weir and Leafgold Weir is through private freehold land and is a matter for those landowners.

Similarly alternative access to the ponded water area of the Collins Weir is through State land held as an Occupation Licence, which may be used by the licence holder for grazing purposes only. The invitees of the licence holder may access the ponded area, however, the license holder is unable to enter into any agreement to use the land adjoining the weir. Any such agreement would contravene the conditions of the licence.