

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 932

asked on Friday 26 May 2006

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

QUESTION:

What are the details of the State Government's South East Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy and how does it contrast with the document released by the Coalition?

ANSWER:

The State Government in partnership with the 18 Local Governments of the South East Queensland Region and SEQWater and SunWater are currently developing a Regional Water Supply Strategy to meet the water needs of the region through to the middle of the century. Stage 1 of the Strategy was completed in August 2004. The Stage 2 Strategy is due for completion by the end of 2006.

Elements of the Strategy have already been made public in the South East Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy – Stage 2 Interim Report released in January 2006. This Report contains a diversity of cost effective approaches to sustainably reduce demands and increase supplies over the short, medium and long terms.

Since the Interim Report was published, the Government has announced that it will proceed with Traveston Dam on the Mary River and a dam on the Logan River system either at Tilleys Bridge or Wyaralong subject to the satisfactory completion of investigations and the granting of necessary Commonwealth and State approvals.

The Strategy is likely to be substantially different from the Coalition's documents because it will provide for significantly greater supplies to be drawn from the storages recently announced by the Government. The Government's strategy is for the long term and will deal with drought contingency planning requirements.

The Coalition Strategy's dodgy document is full of errors, and it does not provide for the water needed for the State's south-east. Apart from its mistakes and the smaller lower-yielding dams, the Coalition broadly endorses the Strategy developed by the Queensland Government and local councils.