

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 938

asked on Friday 26 May 2006

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

QUESTION:

With reference to each of Queensland's dams

- (1) Does each dam meet the spillway safety standards as defined by the Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD); if not, when does he expect each dam to be brought up to the spillway safety standards?
- (2) What is the estimated cost of upgrading all dams to meet the safety standards defined by ANCOLD?
- (3) What is the present safe capacity of each dam?

ANSWER:

The scope of the Member's question is unclear but it is assumed that the Member is referring to dams owned or operated by the Queensland Government.

- (1) The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water (NRMW) is currently finalising a spillway adequacy guideline for all referable dams in Queensland. It is expected that this Departmental guideline will be based on ANCOLD guidelines.
- (2) Cost estimates for the spillway upgrades of referable dams are expected to be spread over the next 30 years. \$68 million was spent on the recent Wivenhoe Dam stage 1 spillway upgrade. Individually the cost of upgrades are dependent on the conditions at each dam, the size, type and arrangement of each dam and the relative magnitude of the upgrading required.
- (3) As mentioned the NRMW Guidelines are not yet finalised however the Member should note that a number of dam owners have already upgraded or are in the process of upgrading the spillway capacity of their dams.

These include major dams such as Wivenhoe Dam, Ross River Dam and Fred Haigh Dam.

With the finalisation of the Departmental guidelines, this work will continue in accordance with the specified timelines.