

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 954**  
**Asked on 6 June 2006**

MISS ROBERTS asked the Premier (MR BEATTIE) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the proposed Traveston Dam—

(1) Does he realise that many of the home owner's who will have to sell their properties, particularly if they are retired, may never be in a financial position again to ever own a property and will subsequently have no financial security and the social impacts could be catastrophic?

(2) Are these people supposed to rent (rental properties which are few and far between) for the rest of their lives?

ANSWER:

My Government recognises that the land acquisition process will have a significant impact on all those families and businesses affected by the proposed Traveston Dam and is committed to ensuring that these people can get on with their lives as quickly as possible. That is why the Government has created the preliminary Land Acquisition Fund of \$50 million, which will allow people affected by the proposed Traveston Dam to begin negotiating the sale of their property immediately. The creation of the fund will help those people whose lives will be affected by the proposed dam as they will be able to sell up and buy elsewhere as quickly as possible.

In addition, it should be noted that the Government will be reviewing its own land holdings in wider South East Queensland. This may enable properties to be identified that may have been previously purchased for potential dam sites that can now be released back into private ownership, given the certainty recently provided by the Government in relation to the siting of future dams in South East Queensland. So too may there be other suitable holdings that are surplus to Government requirements but could provide new opportunities for people displaced by the proposed dams. All such options along with other measures to enable people the opportunity to resettle in the area will be examined in the effort to assist people in the affected areas to re-establish their way of life in, either the same or a new part of our State.

The Government will be paying everybody who needs to be relocated the full and fair market value for their properties. Payment will be based on the valuation of the property prior to the announcement of the proposed dam. Some additional monies will be paid to those people whose homes are their principal place of residence, in recognition of what they would normally have to pay in the changeover from one property to another.

A whole of Government committee, led by the Department of Communities, has been established to examine relocation issues associated with the proposed dam. People who are experiencing difficulties regarding the relocation process should contact the toll free Queensland Water Infrastructure Hotline on 1800 243 585 to discuss their particular circumstances.