

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 959

asked on Tuesday 6 June 2006

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the huge amount of water which is being wasted from air conditioning units on large buildings such as hospitals, shopping centres and office buildings and as it could be used in the toilets or recycled back into the air conditioning unit to keep it running instead of piping it into storm water drains, and in light of the unparalleled opposition to the Traveston Dam and the fact that high humidity in summer produces a large amount of water from air conditioning units—

Will he introduce legislation to recycle the condensation (which is distilled, filtered water) off the coils of air conditioning units?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government has announced that more than \$8 million will be spent on installing a range of water-saving devices in government buildings, including public housing.

Any decision to undertake condensation recovery needs to be considered on a site-specific basis and address a range of issues. These include potential health issues associated with storing the water, such as the potential for Legionella growth, the possible treatment of the water so that it is fit for the purpose for which it is intended, as well as costs incurred when piping and collecting the water and maintaining the system. I am advised these costs can be particularly high when retrofitting existing buildings.

There is no legislation prohibiting the condensation recovery. However, there is currently no intention under my portfolio to introduce legislation to require the recycling of condensation recovery.