

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 962

asked on Tuesday 6 June 2006

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

QUESTION:

With reference to a Water Resources Report on Tilley's Bridge released by the Government in 1991 which showed that a 230,000 megalitre dam would yield 31,777 megalitres per year and as this yield did not include Cedar Weir which has been reported as having a yield of 4,000 megalitres per year—

How can the Government report that a proposed dam at Tilley's Bridge will yield approximately 45,000 megalitres per year?

ANSWER:

On 4 July 2006, the Queensland Government announced its plan to build the Wyaralong Dam and Bromelton Offstream Storage in the Logan River catchment as well as raise the Hinze Dam and water-harvest into it from Canungra Creek, Coomera River and other suitable locations.

The Government also confirmed it would not proceed with the alternative option of building a dam at Tilley's Bridge.

The four projects announced by the Government are projected to provide an additional 42,000 megalitres each year. It is projected half of this additional yield – 21,000 megalitres each year – will be provided following construction of Wyaralong Dam to operate in conjunction with the Cedar Grove Weir, which is already being progressed.

On 5 July 2006, the Government announced its plan for a staged Traveston Dam and a raised Borumba Dam in the Mary River catchment.

With this announcement, the Government publicly released a number of reports including the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water's (NRMW) report "Water for South East Queensland: A long term solution". This report is available at www.nrm.qld.gov.au.

The yield for planned water infrastructure projects are detailed in this report.

The yields reported are in two classes – "historic no failure yield" and "prudent yield".

The "historic no failure yield" is the traditional yield estimate based on historical rainfall and streamflow data.

As a result of revised climate modelling – and the increased likelihood of longer dry periods – NRMW believes “historic no failure yields” previously used for water infrastructure planning can no longer be the most accurate basis for yield assumptions.

Therefore, NRMW has adopted the more conservative calculation of “prudent yield”, which takes into account the impacts of climate change.

Prudent yield incorporates consideration of climate variability change as well as environmental flow requirements.

Yield projections for the Tilley's Bridge Dam range up to 47,000 megalitres each year. I am advised these yield projections are “historic no failure yield” assessments of Tilley's Bridge Dam operating in conjunction with Cedar Grove Weir.