

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 115

asked on Thursday, 8 February 2007

MR HOOLIHAN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER AND MINISTER ASSISTING THE PREMIER IN NORTH QUEENSLAND (MR WALLACE)—

QUESTION:

How will the building of the Rookwood Weir and the raising of the Eden Bann Weir on the Fitzroy River protect the future water needs of the Capricorn region?

ANSWER:

In May 2006, the Government announced the raising of Eden Bann Weir and the construction of Rookwood Weir by the end of 2011 to meet:

- industrial expansion and associated population growth in the Gladstone and Lower Fitzroy regions;
- population growth in the Capricorn Coast region;
- improved supply reliability; and
- potential intensive livestock development.

Preliminary analysis shows that the raising of Eden Bann Weir and the construction of Rookwood Weir will provide an additional supply of approximately 76,000 megalitres of water per annum.

Assuming a yield of 3,000 megalitres of water per annum from Waterpark Creek supply scheme and no utilisation of the Sandy Creek supply source, the shortfall for the Capricorn Coast is expected to be 1,800 megalitres per annum in 2010, increasing to 3,250 megalitres per annum in 2020.

The shortfall in the Capricorn Coast will be met by a reservation of 4,000 megalitres of water per annum for urban needs under the Central Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy. Design work is currently underway for the Yeppoon Pipeline to supply the Capricorn Coast from the Fitzroy River Barrage.

The Strategy has also reserved 30,000 megalitres of water per annum, for urban and industrial purposes for the Gladstone Area Water Board. Work is in progress for a pipeline to link Gladstone and the Fitzroy River. The balance of the water from the development of the weirs is identified for urban, industrial and agricultural purposes in the Lower Fitzroy River.