

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 136

asked on Tuesday, 20 February 2007

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

QUESTION:

With reference to his comments in the Townsville Bulletin on 6 February 2007 that he had called for a report on stage two of the Burdekin Falls Dam—

- (1) Will he release this report publicly?
- (2) What is his department's current estimated cost of (a) raising the Burdekin Falls Dam by two metres, the estimated yield and capacity of the dam after it was raised by two metres and how many properties would need to be acquired if the dam was raised by two metres, (b) raising the Burdekin Falls Dam by six metres, the estimated yield and estimated capacity of the dam after it was raised by six metres, and how many properties would need to be acquired if the dam was raised by six metres, (c) constructing the Urannah Dam, the estimated yield and estimated capacity of the dam and how many properties would need to be acquired to build this dam and (d) constructing the Nullinga Dam, the estimated yield and estimated capacity of the dam and how many properties would need to be acquired to build this dam?

ANSWER:

- (1) I have committed to the preparation of a Regional Water Supply Strategy for North Queensland which will consider options for the future raising of Burdekin Falls Dam. The Strategy, which covers the Burdekin, Bowen, Thuringowa and Townsville areas, is expected to be completed in 2008. This will be a public document.
- (2)
 - (a) A recent costing of the 2 metre raising was some \$65 million. No properties would be affected as a significant buffer was taken for Stage 1, which is sufficient to allow future raising of the wall. The draft Burdekin/Haughton Water Resource Plan allows for a further 150,000 megalitres per annum of medium priority allocation, should the raising be required.
 - (b) The requirements for any further raising will be considered in the Regional Water Supply Strategy, but I understand that the Flood Margin Reserve taken for Stage 1 will cover most, if not all, options.

- (c) There are currently no plans to construct Urannah Dam, although it will be considered as part of the North Queensland and the Mackay/Whitsunday Regional Water Supply Strategies as a future supply option.
- (d) With respect to Nullinga Dam, Investigations have commenced to determine the feasibility of that option as an outcome of the Far North Queensland Regional Water Strategy. The Strategy will determine the timing for construction to meet the water security needs of that region, which includes the Atherton Tableland and Cairns.