

Question on Notice

No. 144

Asked on 20 February 2007

Mr SEENEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure (Ms BLIGH) –

QUESTION:

Will she provide a breakdown of overseas travel undertaken by commissioners and officers of the Queensland Water Commission since the commission was established until now, detailing the

- (a) names of commissioners and officers who travelled,
- (b) destinations and duration of the travel,
- (c) purpose of the travel,
- (d) total costs for the travel broken down for each commissioner and officer for each trip and
- (e) funding source for the travel?

ANSWER:

a)- b)

No overseas travel has been undertaken by Commissioners of the Queensland Water Commission (QWC).

Two officers of the QWC undertook overseas travel to the United States from 27 January to 4 February 2007. The travel was undertaken by Mr Barry Dennien, Executive Director, Regional Policy and Planning and Mr Gerald Tooth, Director, Communications and External Relations.

c) The purpose of this nine day study tour was to acquire a detailed understanding of existing purified recycled water (PRW) schemes in and around Los Angeles, San Francisco and Scottsdale, Arizona, their regulatory frameworks and the community engagement processes undertaken. The study tour enabled QWC officers to discuss and access technical issues with key scientists and engineers. They were also able to seek advice regarding the proposed regulatory framework and aspects of technical specifications relevant to current and potential purified recycled water projects.

A one day workshop of technical, regulatory and communication experts in purified recycled water was held in San Jose, California. This workshop was noteworthy because United States experts in recycled water travelled at their own costs to meet and exchange information in a forum convened by Queensland staff.

d) The total approved travel budget for each officer was estimated at \$7,763 including air fares, accommodation, car hire, equipment and meals etc. As the Study Tour was completed in early February, final accounts have not yet been received.

e) The costs were funded by the QWC.

Note: The Study Tour was led by Mr Edward (Ted) Gardner, Principal Scientist with the Department of Natural Resources and Water. As well as visiting the USA with the QWC officers, Mr Gardner visited other countries such as Singapore and the United Kingdom over a period of 21 days from 28 January to 14 February 2007. The purpose of Mr Gardner's travel was to gain first hand knowledge of existing and planned PRW use in other parts of the developed world, focusing on existing PRW schemes that have the greatest relevance to Queensland. The approved budget for Mr Gardner's travel including the one day workshop in San Jose was \$24,207, which the QWC agreed to fund. Mr Gardner has been and will continue to advise the QWC on PRW.