

Question on Notice

No. 1814

Asked on Thursday, 1 November 2007

MISS SIMPSON asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Mr LUCAS) –

QUESTION:

With reference to the Water Grid Pipeline Interconnectors, Northern Pipeline Interconnector, Southern Pipeline Interconnector and Eastern Pipeline Interconnector—

- (1) What are the estimated costs for each stage of the project, including land acquisition (reported separately)?
- (2) What are the estimated costs of the planned pumping stations (reported separately)?
- (3) What are the estimated annual operation costs of the Interconnectors (reported separately)?
- (4) What is the estimated pumping cost per megalitre of water for these pipelines (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Maroochydhore for her question.

The Northern Pipeline Interconnector, Southern Regional Water Pipeline and the Eastern Pipeline Interconnector projects are being progressed under an alliance delivery model and are at various stages of implementation.

The requested information on project funding and pump station cost is summarised in the attached table, where this information is currently available. The information requested on annual operating cost and pumping cost per megalitre is yet to be finalised and therefore is not provided. I am advised these are preliminary cost estimates only and subject to further detailed cost development by the respective Alliance.

The attached table also contains a project status column. What this shows is the Queensland Government getting on with the job of securing water for the growing South East Queensland region. These three projects are an essential part of the \$9 billion Grid that will ensure water security for more than 2.8 million people and thousands of businesses in South East Queensland.

This is in stark contrast to the Opposition's approach to securing the region's water supply. The Opposition has continually opposed the establishment of the South East Queensland Water Grid and at the last election, proposed a policy which featured four dams in South East Queensland but no pipes to connect them. They had no plan to move water to areas where it is needed, as it is needed.

The Member for Maroochydore has taken a particular stand against the Northern Pipeline Interconnector, which will link the Sunshine Coast communities to the entire water grid. Rather than focus on the whole of region benefits that will be delivered through the water grid, as the region has a right to expect of a shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Planning for the entire state of Queensland, the Member for Maroochydore's focus is only on her own backyard.

Were we to apply the Member for Maroochydore's logic on the water grid to electricity, then the residents of Ipswich near Swanbank power station, would be switching off the lights on the Sunshine Coast. Were it up to the Member for Maroochydore, parts of SEQ would be left thirsty and dirty while dams in other areas overflowed.

Fortunately, the Queensland Government has a different vision - to secure water supply for all residents of region .

Project	Project Status	Approved Project Funding/pumping station costs
Northern Pipeline Interconnector		
Stage 1	Under Construction (October 2007)	Preliminary estimate of project is \$ 564 million. No pump station required for drought contingency requirements for stage 1. Stage 2 potentially requires two pumping stations. Detailed costings yet to be advised.
Stage 2	Planning & Approval Phase	
Southern Regional Water Pipeline	Under Construction (October 2006)	Approved funding for project is \$ 901 million. This includes funding for the following pumping stations - \$12.6m for Bundamba; \$9.9m for Swanbank; \$22m for Chambers Flat; \$9.7m for Coomera and \$12.6m for Molendinar.
Eastern Pipeline Interconnector		
Island works	On hold	Not available.
Mainland works	Planning & Approval Phase	The preliminary estimate for this part of the project is \$31 million. This involves one pump station, the detailed costing of which is still to be advised.