

Question on Notice

No. 398

Asked on 13 March 2007

MR FOLEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure (Ms BLIGH) –

QUESTION:

With reference to media reports that the Traveston Dam site soil contains significant amounts of arsenic from cattle dips on the area's farms—

What steps will she take to guarantee that this does not pose a health risk to South East Queenslanders?

ANSWER:

The proposed Traveston Crossing Dam Stage 1 is subject to a robust and thorough public Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*. This process is also a recognised and accredited process which will satisfy the Commonwealth's assessment process under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Following the Coordinator-General's declaration of the Traveston Crossing Dam Stage 1 to be a significant project under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*, the Coordinator-General released a draft EIS Terms of Reference for public consultation for the period of 9 December 2006 to 19 February 2007.

The draft Terms of Reference generated strong public interest, with 260 submissions provided to the Coordinator-General for consideration. The Coordinator-General is examining each of these submissions in detail, with a view to finalising the Terms of Reference in April 2007.

Without pre-empting the Coordinator-General's decision on the final Terms of Reference, the current draft Terms of Reference for the Traveston Crossing Dam Project Stage 1, at section 3.2.4, outlines requirements to:

- identify areas of potential contamination within the inundation area or buffer zones, including cattle dips;
- provide details of any potential impacts from land contamination on any of the proposed uses of the dam, inclusive of recreational, agricultural or human consumption uses; and
- provide proposed mitigation measures.