

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 408

asked on Tuesday, 13 March 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 the Home WaterWise Scheme—

- (1) What is the number and value of rebate applications received under the Home WaterWise Rebate Scheme since its inception, including a breakdown by local government area?
- (2) What is the number and value of rebates actually paid out to date under the scheme, including a breakdown by local government area?
- (3) How many applications were approved (a) within 60 days and (b) on or later than 60 days, including a breakdown by local government area for both, as per his answer to Question on Notice No. 1393 for 2006 in which details of rebates paid in more or less than 60 days was provided?
- (4) What is the average time for a water rebate to be processed and paid out (both an overall average and a breakdown of the average processing time by local government area)?

ANSWER:

Queenslanders are making an unprecedented effort to save water during the worst drought on record and I wish to congratulate them for that.

The Home Water Rebate Scheme database does not provide data in relation to the number and value of rebate applications received by local government area.

I am advised that as of 8 April 2007 almost 75,000 rebates totalling more than \$41.7 million have been paid under the WaterWise Rebate Scheme.

On 8 April 2007 the Premier announced an extra 25 staff would be appointed to help process applications under the Scheme, bringing the total number of staff to 156.

The time it would take public servants to compile such data would be better spent processing applications for rebates which, I am advised, are currently running at 5,000-6,000 a week.

