

Question on Notice

No. 557

Asked on 17 April 2007

MR HOPPER asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure (MS BLIGH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Urban Water Security Research Alliance announced on 3 April 2007 by the Premier (an organisation that will be working in partnership with the Queensland Water Commission) and the \$50m budget over five years for the alliance—

- (1) What is the specific budget for research for the new alliance and what is the process of project approval?
- (2) What is the specific budget for communications, marketing, advertising and publications for the new alliance?
- (3) What relationship will the alliance have with the Department of Natural Resources and Water considering it is the department which is in charge of water?

ANSWER:

- (1) The Queensland Government is contributing \$5 million per annum over 5 years, with a possible two year extension, to the South East Queensland Urban Water Security Research Alliance (the Alliance). Each year \$3 million will go to the CSIRO, \$0.5 million to University of Queensland and \$0.5 million to Griffith University. The other \$1 million will be allocated across the above three organisations, in accordance with the Research and Development Program Plan.

The CSIRO, University of Queensland and Griffith University will contribute a total of \$5 million per annum in-kind to the Alliance to match the cash contributions from the Queensland Government. This will give a total budget allocation of \$50 million over 5 years. Funding will be available from 1 July 2007.

The Alliance Agreement between the Queensland Government and the CSIRO, University of Queensland and Griffith University is currently being finalised and the Alliance Management Committee, which will manage the Alliance, will be established.

An annual Research and Development Program Plan (the Research Plan) will be prepared by the Alliance Management Committee and will be signed off by the Queensland Government and the CSIRO.

Projects will be approved in line with the Research Plan and managed by the Program Director of the Alliance.

The Research Plan will detail the science program areas to be achieved, together with the budget allocation for each of the program areas.

The Research Plan will focus on developing knowledge and tools that contribute to securing South East Queensland's water supply, particularly for best-practice engagement, management and delivery of water recycling, and addressing the total water cycle from upstream catchments to Moreton Bay.

- (2) The budget for communications, marketing, advertising and publications has not yet been determined.

The Alliance Management Committee will make decisions on spending in these areas.

The emphasis by the Alliance Management Committee will be on maximising expenditure on the Research Program and undertaking activities to influence the uptake of this innovative research by local governments, water service providers, urban water industry and businesses, and water users.

- (3) The Queensland Government will have two representatives on the Alliance Management Committee, one from the Department of Natural Resources and Water and another from the Queensland Water Commission. These agencies will ensure the Research Plan meets both the short and long term needs of South East Queensland.