

Question on Notice
No. 568
Asked on 17 April 2007

MR SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for State Development, Employment and Industrial Relations (MR MICKEL) —

QUESTION:

Will he supply estimates and/or actuals for the number of jobs lost as a result of the effects of water restrictions on businesses in the south east since level 4 was introduced and estimates for effects when levels 6 and 7 (if introduced)?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Water Commission has not indicated the form any future restrictions may take, therefore I am not in a position to hypothesise about future impacts.

I am advised that employment data relies on ABS figures which do not cover specific events. Queensland's unemployment rate is at an historic low of 3.7%.

I am advised that sectors which may be affected by water restrictions have been identified. These include nurseries, turf farms, the flower industry, irrigation, landscaping, landscape maintenance, landscape design and horticultural consulting. The landscape industry is actively focussing on responding to water restrictions by developing water conserving landscape designs and maintenance practices.

I am advised that water-intensive small businesses such as house cleaners and dog washers are also working with Government to maximise their ability to continue operating through the drought.

I am advised that water restrictions have created employment opportunities for water tank manufacturers, plumbers and suppliers of water wise products.