

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 654

asked on Thursday, 19 April 2007

MS DARLING ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER AND MINISTER ASSISTING THE PREMIER IN NORTH QUEENSLAND (MR WALLACE)—

QUESTION:

Will he provide an update on the Queensland Government's home WaterWise rebate scheme including how many Queenslanders have now applied for water tank rebates and how the increased staffing numbers will improve processing times?

ANSWER:

The Home WaterWise Rebate Scheme (HWRS) has attracted an enormous response from Queenslanders. The Scheme is consistently receiving between 5,000-6,000 applications for rebates each week.

As at 23 April 2007, the HWRS had approved rebate payments totalling 83,135 applications to the value of \$46.64M.

The most popular rebate item is rainwater tanks. As at 23 April 2007, the HWRS had approved 39,143 rebate applications for rainwater tanks to the value of \$38.33M.

To improve processing times, the HWRS will be employing additional staff from early June 2007. It is anticipated that with these extra staff, in conjunction with other business improvement initiatives being undertaken, the scheme will be able to process in excess of 1,500 applications a day.