

Question on Notice

No. 7

Asked on 6 February 2007

Mr RICKUSS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure (Ms BLIGH) –

QUESTION:

With reference to the Premier's Ministerial Statement of 8 August 2006 on south-east Queensland's water supply in which he stated, "I can also signal our intention to create a water grid manager to be the intermediary or wholesaler between water sources and local government retailers" and "we expect to present options to Cabinet by 30 September 2006" -

- (a) What options have been considered by the Beattie Labor Government for a water grid manager?
- (b) What is the State Government's preferred option for a water grid manager and what will the role entail
- (c) When is the water grid manager expected to be established and why has there been a delay in announcing details about the water grid manager?

ANSWER:

Pursuant to Section 360E of the *Water Act 2000*, the Premier directed the Queensland Water Commission on 26 August 2006 to advise him in his capacity at the time as the Minister for Water, with regard to:

- matters relating to water supply and demand for urban, industrial and rural water use in South East Queensland to develop a cost recovery and pricing framework; and
- the outstanding matters pertaining to the current Review of Institutional Arrangements for water in South East Queensland.

The Commission has now reported to the Government with regard to this direction, including setting out a timetable for implementing the South East Queensland water grid. This has been a complex exercise, requiring lengthy negotiation with councils. I understand the Commission will soon release this advice for consultation. The Government will subsequently make its decision with regard to these matters.