

Question on Notice

No. 712

Asked on 22 May 2007

MR RICKUSS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure (MS BLIGH) –

QUESTION:

With reference to the response by Minister for Natural Resources and Water (Mr Wallace) to Question on Notice, Reference No. 281 asked on Tuesday, 6 March 2007 and to the potential use of recycled water in the South East corner of Queensland –

1. How much recycled water will be used to replace drinking water that is currently being used by industry and agriculture?
2. What steps has the Government taken to market the water in the Western Corridor Recycled Water pipeline, before it gets to the dam?
3. Is there any specific infrastructure that is being connected to the Recycled Water pipeline that is going to industry, apart from that going to Tarong and Swanbank Power Stations?

ANSWER:

1. The Western Corridor Recycled Water Project will have the capacity to supply 182 million litres a day from October 2008 and 232 million litres a day by December 2008.

Of this, up to 95 million litres a day will be supplied directly to the Swanbank, Tarong and Tarong North Power Stations, taking pressure of the Wivenhoe-Somerset Dam system.

Purified recycled water will also be provided directly to a range of existing and new industrial users. For instance, detailed negotiations are underway to supply 4.5 million litres a day to Incitec Pivot Ltd.

Under the *Water Amendment Regulation (No. 6) 2006*, Brisbane City Council is required to substitute another 15.5 million litres a day of recycled water to appropriate industrial and commercial users. Contract works are underway to supply 4.5 million litres of recycled water a day to the Caltex refinery and with other industrial users, such as G. James Glass. Longer-term, recycled water will be supplied directly to the key industrial growth areas in the Western Corridor, such as the Swanbank Enterprise Park.

In addition, about 68 million litres of purified recycled water a day will be made available to Lockyer Valley irrigators, subject to conditions which prioritise water for urban users when required. The Western Corridor Recycled Water Project has been designed to allow primary producers to access water at a number of points, such as Lowood in the Lockyer Valley.

Other opportunities for the supply of recycled water are being pursued outside of the Western Corridor Recycled Water Project. For instance, Pine Rivers Shire Council is proposing to supply 4 million litres a day of recycled water to the Amcor paper mill at Murrumba Downs.

2. The Government is marketing purified recycled water from the Western Corridor Recycled Water Project in partnership with the Brisbane and Ipswich City Councils. The Queensland Government is negotiating directly with the Swanbank, Tarong and Tarong North power stations. Similarly, Brisbane City Council is negotiating with a range of other industrial users, including Brisbane Airport Corporation, Caltex and G James Glass, in order to achieve the requirement under the Regulation.
3. A range of additional infrastructure is being constructed to supply purified recycled water to industrial users at Australia TradeCoast and in the Western Corridor. This includes a dedicated connection and pipeline for Incitec Pivot Ltd and an advanced water treatment plant and connecting pipeline to supply the Caltex refinery. Further, dedicated recycled water pipelines are being constructed in the Australia TradeCoast North and Australia TradeCoast Central areas and being investigated for Australia TradeCoast South. Elsewhere, dedicated recycled water pipelines are being considered for a range of industrial development areas in the Western Corridor, including Carole Park, Bremer Business Park and the Swanbank Enterprise Park.