

Question on Notice

No. 713

Asked on 22 May 2007

MISS SIMPSON asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure (MS BLIGH) –

QUESTION:

With reference to water restrictions applicable to South East Queensland water consumers and businesses –

1. What will be the level of water restrictions imposed on Sunshine coast consumers and businesses once the Sunshine Coast region is connected to the water grid?
2. How many Sunshine Coast jobs will be affected by stringent water restrictions?

ANSWER:

Upon completion of the South East Queensland (SEQ) Water Grid and the implementation of institutional arrangements to support its operation, water restrictions will be determined on a whole-of-region basis.

The Sunshine Coast will become part of the SEQ Water Grid following the completion of the Northern Pipeline Interconnector, which is scheduled to occur by 31 December 2008. Given this is approximately some 18 months into the future, it is not possible to predict prevailing climactic conditions nor what level of restrictions, if any, may be in place at that point in time.

However, in the interests of regional water supply security and to encourage water efficient practices across the community, some Sunshine Coast Councils have already implemented restrictions and others are currently considering their introduction.

Any decision with regard to restrictions once the Sunshine Coast joins the SEQ Water Grid would take into account the need to provide security of water to residential and non-residential water customers whilst minimising disruption to personal and business activities. A major consideration of the Queensland Water Commission when formulating restrictions for SEQ to date has been the desire to minimise job losses and reduce impacts on industry. This approach will continue to be a priority for the Commission in setting new or revised restrictions.