

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 724

**asked on Wednesday, 23 May 2007**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Beattie Government's record of supporting improvements to water infrastructure—

Will he provide an update on assistance and support provided to the application to raise Lenthall's Dam?

ANSWER:

The Lenthall's Dam raising is an important part of securing water supplies to the Wide Bay region.

The Department of Natural Resources and Water and its predecessors, have worked with the applicant, the Wide Bay Water Corporation, since the project's inception.

Initially, it was necessary to consider the scope of the project with the Hervey Bay City Council and State Government agencies, to ascertain an appropriate raising level to ensure its sustainability. A six metre raising was originally considered by the proponent. However, after consultation with Government agencies, a two metre raising (through installation of gates in the spillway) was agreed as being more appropriate.

As the project crystallised, my Department provided a full-time experienced planner to facilitate the range of pre-lodgement approvals and assessments necessary for the project to be assessed. The purpose of this initiative was to work with Wide Bay Water Corporation in a manner which would enable them, as applicants for Lenthalls Dam raising, to prepare and submit well-informed, properly made applications.

This included providing Wide Bay Water Corporation with guidance on the following: an interim resource operations license (IROL) and clarity on the required process to seek engineering approval for the structure under the *Water Act 2000*; other Water Act approvals for the use of sand and gravel resources from the watercourse; Native Title clearance; revocation of areas of state forest; Cultural heritage issues - aboriginal and other, including the need for a cultural heritage management plan; detailing the required processes under the Commonwealth *Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act*; resource entitlements for the use of State land required for the enlarged

inundation area; and processes under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* to apply for clearing (by inundation) of remnant vegetation - so the applicant could address the required performance requirements and acceptable solutions required under the State policy for vegetation management.

Significant assistance was also provided by providing the applicant with access to an experienced Vegetation Management Officer. This Officer assisted with the identification of remnant vegetation and suitable strategies and sites for possible offsets (to reconstitute areas lost to inundation).

In addition, the Department of Natural Resources and Water brokered arrangements to finalise the revocation of areas of State forest by the Environmental Protection Agency. As I understand it, that agency, also expedited their internal processes to urgently progress this matter.