

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 745

asked on Wednesday, 23 May 2007

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

QUESTION:

Given the fact that Kingaroy Shire has only six months water supply remaining, will he declare an emergency under the water supply emergency provisions of the *Water Act 2000* to allow Kingaroy Shire access to water above its current water supply (i.e. Boondooma Dam) to provide essential services in Kingaroy?

ANSWER:

Kingaroy Shire Council owns Gordonbrook Dam and the town is presently dependant on it as its sole source of supply. The Dam, which is on the Stewart River, has a capacity of 6500 megalitres at Full Supply Level and is vulnerable to depletion in the event of severe drought conditions. Without significant inflows and under a restriction scenario, the estimated water supply depletion for Gordonbrook Dam is November 2007.

A future supply option for Kingaroy is currently being worked through. This option involves giving Kingaroy a back up supply from the Boondooma - Tarong Pipeline. To date, the responses from the respective parties have been quite positive and, as such, an extension of emergency powers is not likely to be required.

In October 2003 Kingaroy was in almost the same position as now. At that time, the Council put forward an application to construct the same pipeline from the Boondooma/Tarong pipeline. The estimated cost was \$1.45 million. In February 2004 it rained and the Council withdrew the application.

It is worth noting that such a pipeline will now cost approximately \$2.3 million.

At a meeting of all relevant parties on 7 June 2007, an action plan was drawn up to ensure Kingaroy has adequate back up supplies when required.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS ANSWER REPLACES THE PREVIOUS ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE NO. 745 TABLED ON 22 JUNE 2007.