

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 861

asked on Wednesday, 6 June 2007

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

QUESTION:

With reference to his announcement late last year that his department was co-ordinating a project to remove excess debris from watercourses as a result of Tropical Cyclone Larry in far north Queensland—

Will he advise the House on the progress of this project?

ANSWER:

The Preventative Waterway Debris Removal Project focused on high risk areas prior to the 2006/07 wet season. The effort put in by seven local river trusts and shire councils to remove this debris promptly, was successful in preventing major damage to public and primary industry related infrastructure and residential flooding due to debris in the flood that occurred in February 2007. No reports of major debris-related problems were reported in that event.

Some compensatory revegetation will be conducted in the 2007/08 financial year as well as finalisation of cleaning at any sites that still pose a justifiable risk.

The completion of this project is dependent on the co-operation and assistance of local authorities. It is expected that all remaining debris removal works will be completed prior to the commencement of the 2007/08 wet season in November 2007, with all revegetation works to be completed by end of the 2007/08 financial year.