

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 877

asked on Wednesday, 6 June 2007

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

QUESTION:

With reference to recent widespread concerns regarding the volume of environmental and other releases of water from Tinaroo Dam, as required under the Barron Water Resource Operations Plan (ROP)—

Will you review the ROP and its parent document the Barron Water Resource Plan now rather than when it is due in 2012?

ANSWER:

The Barron Resource Operations Plan (ROP) contains stringent rules controlling the release of water from Tinaroo Falls Dam.

Under the ROP, volumes of water are released for downstream purposes when the dam is at high levels.

When the recent releases occurred, the dam was at 92%.

The releases of water were to provide water to Stanwell's Barron Falls Hydroelectric power station and to meet environmental flow requirements downstream of the dam.

Opponents of releasing this water should say if they support closing down the Barron Falls Hydroelectric power station, which provides green power.

I explained these facts in a number of media statements at the time.

I do not intend to conduct a major review of the Barron Water Resource Plan until it is due, in 2012. Further changes to the ROP may be made to fine tune the operational arrangements.