

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 958

asked on Friday, 8 June 2007

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

QUESTION:

With reference to all metered water allocations in the electorate of Gladstone—

- (1) What fees, charges and taxes were paid by land owners prior to metering being required?
- (2) What additional fees have been collected (a single quantum amount) since metering?

ANSWER:

The only metered area within the Gladstone Electorate is the Boyne River ROP (Resource Operation Plan) Area.

- (1) My Department advises there are no taxes levied in relation to water. Water fees and charges that applied prior to metering being required in this area were a fee of \$81.80 was applicable for any of the following: application for a water licence; amendment of a water licence; to reinstate an expired water licence; to amalgamate water licences; to subdivide and to replace a water licence on disposed land to which the expired licence related.; application by licensee of a water licence for seasonal water assignment - \$109.00; and a water licence fee for each year of the licence period - \$51.55
- (2) Additional charges that have been levied since metering has been undertaken in this area, relate to the Meter Service Charge.

The Meter Service Charge has two components, a Meter Use Charge and a Meter Operating Charge. Boyne clients were given the choice of paying the Meter Use Charge component either upfront or annually as part of their Meter Service Charge. Seven clients elected to pay upfront.

Therefore in 2005/06, a total of \$11,810 was levied for 14 clients. This included either the upfront Meter Use Charge or annual Meter Use Charge (depending on which option was taken) and the annual Meter Operating Charge.

In 2006/07, the charges levied were much less due to upfront Meter Use Charges no longer forming part of the bill. A total of \$2,710.66 has been levied for 14 clients. Total interest of \$29.16 was charged for two clients, with the remainder reflecting the annual Meter Service Charge.