

Question on Notice

No. 97

Asked on 8 February 2007

Mrs PRATT asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure (Ms BLIGH) –

QUESTION:

With reference to the Government awarding French company Veolia Water contracts to run the \$1.7 billion western corridor recycled water pipeline and the \$1.3 billion Gold Coast desalination plant-

1. Does the Government have measures in place to ensure water prices don't rise to profiteering levels, taking advantage of an essential commodity?
2. Does the Government intend to privatise these water projects completely; if so, to what advantage?
3. Has the Government considered ways of harvesting the 40 inches or so of rain that has fallen in the northern regions; if not, why not?

ANSWER:

1. Veolia Water Australia Pty Ltd (Veolia Water) will operate the recycled water pipeline and the Tugun Desalination Plant. Veolia Water was chosen because of its skill in large scale water projects. The infrastructure itself will remain the property of the Queensland Government and Veolia Water will have no control over water pricing.
2. The government has no intention to privatise water projects.
3. I refer to my previous answer of 6 February 2007 to a Question without Notice from the Member for Maryborough on the issue of long distance pipelines from northern Queensland.