

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 981

asked on Friday, 8 June 2007

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Burdekin Dam—

Will he provide details (reported separately) for (a) current available and useable capacity, (b) current water allocations from the system and to whom, (c) any unallocated water and volume, (d) any anticipated future allocations and to whom, (e) any reserve capacity and (f) any anticipated or planned works to raise the dam?

ANSWER:

- (a) The current storage volume (as at 13 June, 2007) is 1,711,000 megalitres.
- (b) SunWater owns and operates Burdekin Falls Dam as part of the Burdekin Haughton Water Supply Scheme (the Scheme).

The Scheme supplies to agricultural users in the Lower Burdekin, and to the North and South Burdekin Water Boards. Water is provided for town water supply purposes. Most of this town water supply is held by NQ Water for supply to Townsville and Thuringowa.

- (c) There is over 170,000 megalitres per annum unallocated.
- (d) SunWater's unused medium priority water is available to cater for future demands, including those associated with SunWater's recently constructed Burdekin to Moranbah pipeline and the Water for Bowen and Proserpine projects.
- (e) SunWater holds additional water for a reserve capacity.
- (f) The draft Burdekin Basin Water Resource Plan, to be finalised in 2007, provides for the establishment of a strategic reserve that would support a raising of Burdekin Falls Dam.