

Question on Notice
No. 1553
Asked on 29 October 2008

MR SPRINGBORG asked the Premier (MS BLIGH) -

QUESTION:

With reference to her recent 'gift of water to Murray Darling'—

- (1) Will she give an undertaking that no farmer or irrigator in my electorate will lose, or receive a reduced entitlement to, irrigation water obtained either from the river system, by over land flow or from an underground water source?
- (2) Will she also give a guarantee that this 'gift' in no way impacts upon the proposed Emu Swamp Dam?

ANSWER:

The 10.6 billion litres of water that the Queensland Government has 'gifted' to the Federal Government includes 500 million litres from the Queensland Border Rivers catchment.

The process that will permanently allocate this water to the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder will ensure that the proposed Emu Swamp Dam, existing entitlement holder's current access to water and their reliability of supplies are not impacted.

The construction of the proposed Emu Swamp Dam, or how that water is accessed, is an issue for the Southern Downs Regional Council to determine.