

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1558

asked on Wednesday, 29 October 2008

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

QUESTION:

Will he provide an update on the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative that is currently being undertaken?

ANSWER:

The Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative (GABSI) is a joint program between the Queensland and the Federal Governments, to provide assistance to landholders for the rehabilitation of bores accessing water from the Great Artesian Basin and replacement of bore drains with piped systems.

GABSI in its current Phase-II stage is progressing well. As at 30 June 2008, a total of 543 bores have been rehabilitated and 264 bores have been piped under GABSI and its predecessor programs. So far, the Queensland Government has spent approximately \$34 million in support of the program.

This has resulted in a total of 9750 kilometres of inefficient and land degrading bore drains being shut down and replaced with pipeline systems. An estimated 161 000 million litres per annum of flow has been saved from the Great Artesian Basin.

In 2008-2009, approximately 40 more bores will be rehabilitated or piped and an estimated 1000 kilometres of bore drain will be shut down and replaced with pipelines. This will result in an estimated further 10 000 million litres per annum of flow being saved.

Queensland is currently in the process of negotiating a third phase of GABSI with the Federal Government.