

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1576

asked on Wednesday, 29 October 2008

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the soon to be finalised Far North Queensland Regional Water Strategy—

Will he clearly state that any consideration of the Nullinga Dam will only ever be a last resort option to be considered only after all sustainable water supply options have first been implemented?

ANSWER:

The Far North Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy (the Strategy) places a high emphasis on the implementation of proven demand management initiatives that reduce per capita consumption, and alternative water supply sources and desalination such as, stormwater and grey-water reuse and water recycling as reliable supplementary supply sources.

The Strategy adopts a hierarchy of three key principles to ensure sustainable allocation and best use of water. These are:

- facilitating the highest value and best use of water through trading of existing secure and well specified water entitlements;
- promoting the efficient use of water through the implementation of demand management measures and by reusing and recycling water wherever possible; and
- where demands cannot be met through the above measures and there is unallocated water available, the development of additional supply sources that will meet the projected water needs at the least cost to the community and ultimately the ratepayer. These options include desalination, purified water reuse and other supply side options.