

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 220

**asked on Wednesday, 27 February 2008**

---

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

### QUESTION:

- (1) Will he explain (a) why Sunwater has outsourced water trading and sales from the Burdekin Dam to third party companies such as Elders and (b) how he expects a true market price to be developed when buyers are forced to pay at least a set reserve plus five percent for Elders?
- (2) Does his definition of fair market price simply mean forcing irrigators to pay what ever you can get away with?

### ANSWER:

- (1)(a) SunWater has engaged Elders as the primary means of temporary trading through seasonal water assignments, to ensure that the trades are independent of SunWater's water supply activities, and that they are transparent to the market.
- (1)(b) The market conditions themselves will determine whether a price is achieved and whether it reflects an appropriate value.
- (2) A fair price is determined by the buyers and sellers in the market environment.