Question on Notice

No. 280

Asked on Thursday, 28 February 2008

MR ELMES asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (MR LUCAS) –

QUESTION:

How will water saving targets be implemented under the proposed South East Queensland water grid corporate governance structure?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Noosa for his question.

The South East Queensland Water Grid and the corporate governance structure within which the Grid Manager will be functionally and operationally separate from the Commission.

The South East Queensland Water Grid and the Grid Manager will operate strictly within an approved water supply framework, the System Operating Plan. The Grid Manager will facilitate the supply of water to retailers, to ensure water is transferred to where it is needed most.

Water saving targets and corporate governance will remain separate, consistent with the intended operation of the new regional institutional arrangements. The Grid Manager will focus on delivering the agreed level of supply.

The Queensland Water Commission will retain its focus on educating the public, facilitating the implementation of drought response policy to manage demand and will continue to be, responsible for the implementation of water saving targets.

The need to educate the public about the importance of water conservation is a high priority for the Government. The Queensland Water Commission has an extensive media presence engaging in television, radio, newspaper and billboard advertising. This presence is evident in the success of the Target 140 campaign. Prior to Level 5 Water Restrictions, residents were using an average of 171 litres per person per day. The Commission recently advised that residents have now achieved consumption below Target 140 for over 30 consecutive weeks.