QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 359

asked on Wednesday, 12 March 2008

MR HINCHLIFFE 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 water planning for the Border Rivers area, especially the Resource Operations Plan?

ANSWER:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Water Act 2000*, the Border Rivers Resource Operations Plan has been approved by the Governor in Council and notified in the Queensland Government Gazette on 14 March 2008.

The Border Rivers Water Resource Plan was approved in December 2003, and will be implemented through the Resource Operations Plan, ensuring that our Border Rivers will be better managed and better protected.

The draft Border Rivers Resource Operations Plan was released for public comments early last year. Contributions were received from community representatives and local water user groups including the Stanthorpe Community Reference Panel and the Border Rivers Food and Fibre as well as other groups and members of the public. All submissions were considered by the Department of Natural Resources and Water as part of the public consultation process.

Implementation of this Resource Operations Plan will enable the delivery of Queensland's National Water Initiative commitments and the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council's cap on diversions of water.

The Plan means that Queensland water users will be able to engage in interstate water trading along the Border Rivers once the New South Wales Border Rivers Regulated River Water Sharing Plan has been finalised.