

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 652

Asked on 30 April 2008

MRS LAVARCH asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR MULHERIN)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the ban on fishing in the North Pine Dam as a result of the drought—

- (1) What level of capacity does the dam need to reach for recreational fishing to be reinstated?
- (2) When the dam reaches this threshold level will assistance be given to the local fishing group to help restore the fish population in the dam?

ANSWER:

- (1) The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) does not regulate public activities or recreational use of the North Pine Dam and its surrounds. Recreational use and access to North Pine Dam is controlled by SEQWater.

Boating access to the dam is managed under a cooperative arrangement between SEQWater and the Pine Rivers Fish Management Association. The Fish Management Association leases an access point on the foreshore of the lake from SEQWater and manages a boating permit scheme to raise additional funds for fish stocking.

These parties have agreed that boat access to the dam should be restricted when water levels fall below 50% of full supply level.

- (2) North Pine Dam is stocked with native fish by the Pine Rivers Fish Management Association Inc., a community fish stocking group. The Pine Rivers Fish Management Association receives an annual grant from DPI&F to purchase fingerlings for restocking the dam.

DPI&F provides similar grants to more than 50 stocking groups throughout Queensland to enhance recreational fishing opportunities in inland areas.

Fish stocking in North Pine Dam has created a high quality recreational fishery, particularly for the Australian Bass.

During periods of low water level, the stocking group reduces fish stocking rates to avoid problems associated with overstocking. Unspent funds provided by DPI&F for fish stocking can be held over and used when water levels are restored.

Recent DPI&F surveys at North Pine Dam indicated that healthy fish populations have persisted in the dam despite ongoing low water levels. There are no indications that the quality of the local fishery has diminished as a result of the drought.

Shore-based fishing is still allowed along the perimeter of the dam.