

Question on Notice
No. 1467
Asked on 8 October 2009

MR MESSENGER asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health (MR LUCAS)-

QUESTION:

With reference to drinking water quality at the Bororen and Miriam Vale townships—

- (1) Was any incident that will, or is likely to, adversely affect drinking water quality at these townships discovered and reported to the government as per the Public Health Regulation 2005 and/or the Water Supply Safety and Reliability Act 2008?
- (2) Will the Minister provide all monitoring results reported to the government on the drinking water quality for the townships (reported separately) for the last ten years?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Burnett for his question.

As the Honourable Member is aware, the water supply to which he refers is operated and regulated by the local Council.

With respect to the substantive issue raised by the Honourable Member, regrettably it would appear, that the new Gladstone Regional Council is saddled with the legacy of decisions of the former Miriam Vale Council (The amalgamation of a Council which he opposed). For example, the former Council clearly approved residential expansion without heed to water supply limitations resulting in the need for them to build a desalination plant.

It is worth noting that the Honourable Member decries a desalination plant at Agnes Waters as environmentally irresponsible yet is part of the LNP Opposition that advocates a desalination plant in lieu of the Traveston Dam.

The Honourable Member's position with respect to the bore water at Bororen, is completely contradictory to his position that bore water should be used in Agnes Waters in lieu of its desalination plant (see ABC online web news item "Agnes Water Desalination Plant Unnecessary: Oppn", 14 May 2009). Further, he provides no explanation as to how he expects the bores at Agnes Waters to work differently from those at Bororen.

I understand the Member for Burnett has now referred the actions of the certain Council officers to the Queensland Ombudsman and the Crime and Misconduct Commission (CMC) in relation to this matter.

In these circumstances, I do not propose to comment on the matter while it is subject of those investigations.