

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1756

asked on Wednesday, 11 November 2009

MR ELMES ASKED THE MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY (MS JONES)—

QUESTION:

Has the Minister's department conducted any environmental impact assessments into the effect of the proposed second-wave of desalination plants and when will the Minister table the reports that outline the damage it will cause to these locations?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Water Commission has undertaken extensive studies, which commenced in 2006, to identify suitable locations for future desalination plants.

As part of this process detailed studies were undertaken on nine shortlisted sites, taking account of environmental, cultural, social and visual amenity factors as well as technical aspects to determine which of the sites could be developed without risk of unacceptable environmental impacts. Reports on the findings of these studies have been available on the Queensland Water Commission's website since February 2009.

As with all significant infrastructure projects an Environmental Impact Statement will be required and the project will need to comply with Queensland environmental laws.