

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1077

asked on Friday, 17 June 2011

MR SPRINGBORG ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (MS JONES)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the department's increase in the draft underground water allocation for the Cherrabah redevelopment outside of Warwick, which saw the allocation increase from 50mgl to 96mgl despite the proponents only requesting an increase to 55mgl and objectors seeking much less—

Will the Minister release all documents relating to the assessment criteria used to justify this significant increase?

ANSWER:

In responding to the question in relation to a decision by the Department of Environment and Resource Management in December 2010, about a water licence application for the Cherrabah development near Warwick, I first wish to correct some aspects of the question.

The original application, in June 2009, was actually for an increase in entitlement from 25 megalitres per annum to 200 megalitres per annum. The original decision by the department, in May 2010, was to approve an increase in entitlement to 127 megalitres per annum with a maximum take of 500 megalitres over ten years.

Following an internal review of this decision, requested by both the applicant and the submitters, the nominal entitlement was reduced to 96 megalitres per year. This figure is based on a calculation of the annual estimated recharge for the local area. The ten-year maximum take limit was removed as the revised estimate indicated that the recharge capacity is sufficient to sustain an annual take of 96 megalitres.

In terms of the question in relation to the release of all documents which were considered in arriving at the internal review outcome and associated decision to grant an allocation, I am happy to advise that that the information has already been released and made available for examination by both the proponent and submitters to this water dealing.

I understand that a number of interested parties have viewed this material to familiarise themselves with the information and facts pertaining to the decision.

I believe that the various documents that have been made available provide the rationale for the decision that has been made and I would be happy to make them available to the Member for Southern Downs to examine as well, if he so wishes.