

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 231

asked on Thursday, 10 March 2011

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MS DARLING ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (MR ROBERTSON)—

QUESTION:

How did the South East Queensland Water Grid perform during Queensland's recent flood disaster?

ANSWER:

The Bligh Government is delivering on its commitment to drought proof Queensland for future generations.

The \$6.9 billion SEQ Water Grid has truly proved its worth over the last few months, with the connected network providing stronger resilience against natural disasters than ever before.

The Water Grid's successful performance during the recent flood disaster is best highlighted through the fact that, throughout the flood, south east Queensland always had fresh, clean water available. Without it, south east Queensland would have been subject to boil water alerts.

Ten thousand tonnes of sediment flowed past Brisbane and Ipswich's main water treatment plants every day during the flood event; however the challenges of treating water in such unprecedented conditions were met and successful operations were maintained. This level of success is a result of the Water Grid's ability to source, treat and transfer water from different regions.

Switched up to full power at the height of the flood emergency, the Gold Coast Desalination Plant maintained water supply in Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan and the Gold Coast, as water treatment plants were damaged or struggled to treat the Brisbane River water. The recommendation from the Water Grid Manager, and consequent decision late last year, to operate the desalination plant on stand-by mode has proved invaluable, with the plant mobilised to provide a further source of water to support the regions through the flood event.

In addition, the establishment of a comprehensive Water Grid Emergency Response Plan meant that management of the operations of all Water Grid assets during south east Queensland's most extreme flood event on record was handled successfully.