

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 602

asked on Tuesday, 10 May 2011

MRS PRATT ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (MR ROBERTSON) —

QUESTION:

With reference to the Hydro scheme at Somerset Dam—

- (1) Was the generating unit submerged by back-up water from Wivenhoe Dam, if so, what damage occurred and what is the repair schedule?
- (2) Is this infrastructure operational, if not, when will it be operational again and if it is not going to be operational again, why not?
- (3) As it was recommissioned in 1998, how many years between then and now has it operated and how much has been spent on this hydro electric scheme since 1998?

ANSWER:

- (1) Due to a combination of the high water level in Lake Wivenhoe and the flood mitigation water releases from Somerset Dam, the hydropower station was inundated to approximately 1.5 metres below the internal ceiling. This meant that all electrical and mechanical equipment within the station was submerged in flood water for approximately two days.
- (2) The infrastructure is currently not operational due to damage to major electrical equipment caused during the flood. Currently, work is being undertaken to identify and analyse the options for the future.
- (3) The Hydro scheme was transferred to Seqwater on 1 July 2008, as part the SEQWater Corporation asset transfer. At hand over in July 2008, the Hydro was not operational and Seqwater has spent approximately \$1.8 million on the plant. Any costs prior to 2008 are unknown.