

Question on Notice
No. 765
Asked on 24 May 2011

MR DICKSON asked the Premier and Minister for Reconstruction (MS BLIGH)—

With reference to the Premier's ministerial media statement of 11 November 2009 –

Does the Premier still believe that the only option to the Traveston Crossing Dam is two more desalination plants at Lytton and Marcoola, and if so, what stage (including land acquisitions) are those projects at?

ANSWER:

We need to plan for the future – a future of growing demand for water and inevitably drought.

In July 2010 we released the South East Queensland Water Strategy and at this time the Water Commissioner noted that desalination was likely to be the only viable option for our next major source of water supply.

So while new technologies may emerge, based on existing information and technology, desalination facilities provide a clear option for climate independent supplies to support growth and address the risk of drought. It also identified that while the next major source of supply may be required by 2021, it is more likely to be required around the mid-2020s.

The South East Queensland Water Strategy identified sites at Lytton and Marcoola as 'priority' sites for new water supply sources.

However, as the Honourable Member would be aware, South East Queensland is currently in the fortunate position of having well filled storages. This gives us time to make sure that all options are investigated – including the use of demand management, new infrastructure or alternative supplies.

The SEQ Water Strategy has identified the processes by which the Queensland Water Commission (QWC) will assess alternatives, including water supply and demand management options and the basis for its advice to the Queensland Government.

In accordance with the SEQ Water Strategy, the QWC is progressing further assessment at the priority sites identified in the Strategy, which will assist in identifying outstanding issues and the scope of the detailed feasibility studies. It should be noted that the Lytton site is owned by the State of Queensland and the Marcoola site is owned by the Sunshine Coast Regional Council.