

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1758

asked on Thursday, 15 November 2018

MR R KATTER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Cloncurry Shire Council, which is carrying the entire cost of trying to promote agriculture in the region, and is developing small scale irrigation activities to demonstrate its viability—

Will the Minister facilitate a short term lease for the designated land and access to affordably priced unused water from Lake Julius to assist the council, as outlined in the North West Minerals Blueprint?

ANSWER:

There is currently water available for lease from Julius Dam. Discussions are being held between Sunwater and the Cloncurry Shire Council about short-term commercial lease price options and the viability of required water transportation.

If a short term lease option is not viable, the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME) is leading an initiative to optimise water entitlements to support economic development opportunities, and would be happy to assist Council with a range of alternative options including accessing unsupplemented tradeable water entitlements from the Cloncurry River; or groundwater from the Great Artesian Basin.

Regarding land lease options, no application has been received by DNRME, and no discussions with regional department officers has taken place on preferred sites for the activity proposed by the council. The department would welcome an application and investigate the proposal as a priority upon receipt.