

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 378

asked on Thursday, 22 March 2018

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**MR J COSTIGAN** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

With reference to camping at dams under the control of SunWater, a Government Owned Corporation—

Will the Minister advise (a) why successive Labor Governments have not allowed camping at the Peter Faust Dam, when it is allowed at other dams under the control of SunWater and (b) when work will commence on new facilities at the Peter Faust Dam, in line with the Palaszczuk Government's pre-election commitment?

ANSWER:

- (a) Camping at Peter Faust Dam has been restricted since 2001 due to the detection of *Mimosa pigra* which is a restricted biosecurity plant/shrub under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

*Mimosa pigra* is an invasive and aggressively spreading plant which forms thick, impenetrable monocultures, and its seeds can survive for 20 to 30 years. *Mimosa pigra* restricts stock access and chokes water ways, and is a risk to sugarcane fields, cattle-grazing areas, and wetland areas with conservation significance, in Central Queensland.

As recently as March 2017, *Mimosa pigra* plants were found in the upstream areas of the Peter Faust Dam flood margin area. Eradication programs continue to be in place and Biosecurity Queensland monitors the flood margin with a dedicated full-time role at Peter Faust Dam. Camping remains restricted to existing cleared areas, and no access is allowed in areas of the flood margin where surveillance for *Mimosa pigra* continues.

- (b) SunWater maintains the facilities at Peter Faust Dam for day visitors. These facilities include a single-lane boat ramp, picnic shelters, electric BBQ facilities, toilets and car park.

SunWater is currently in negotiations to transfer the management of the dam's recreation area to the Whitsunday Regional Council. Under council's management, the focus will be on improving recreational amenities, and improvement options will include on-site camping.

Joint Commonwealth and Queensland governments funding of \$1 million has been allocated for new tourism infrastructure at Lake Proserpine (where Peter Faust Dam is located), and works are expected to commence once the transfer to the Whitsunday Regional Council has been finalised.