

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 851

asked on Friday, 15 June 2018

DR C ROWAN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise (a) the active management plan in place for Gold Creek Dam and (b) whether the government will commit to lowering the water level in Gold Creek Dam, as part of a risk management strategy, for the safety of local residents and their associated properties?

ANSWER:

- (a) In compliance with state regulations, the Queensland Bulk Water Authority (trading as Seqwater) has a range of obligations to ensure the safety of Gold Creek Dam. The dam safety management conditions applied to the dam include standards for maintenance, operations and emergency action planning. The emergency action plan for the dam is available on the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy's website at <http://data.dnrm.qld.gov.au/eap/gold-creek-eap.pdf>.
- (b) The size of the storage capacity is small relative to volumes of flow that occur in the catchment during major flood events. Recent flood events in January 2013 (ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald) and March 2017 (ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie) produced flood inflow volumes many times greater than the capacity of the dam. Furthermore, the catchment downstream of the dam is a significant contributor to flood flows in the vicinity of properties in Gold Creek and Moggill Creek.

The dam is operated at 57 per cent of the original storage capacity. The full supply storage level at Gold Creek Dam was reduced by three metres more than five years ago by opening the existing low flow channel on the spillway. The reduced full supply storage level provides some additional flood risk reduction for downstream residents and their properties.

Residents downstream of Gold Creek Dam are aware that flood risk to their properties can occur. The Brisbane City Council are available to provide information and mapping for flood risk to properties.