

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1882

asked on Wednesday, 27 November 2019

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the News Mail article dated 7 November 2019 where the Minister was quoted advising that the Paradise Dam Spillway may not perform to industry standards if Bundaberg was to experience another 200-year event—

Will the Minister explain what these industry standards are?

ANSWER:

The industry standards relevant to Paradise Dam are the guidelines issued by the Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD). The particular guideline used by the dam engineers to assess the safety of Paradise Dam is the Risk Assessment Guideline.

Queensland's Dam Safety Regulator also publishes guidelines that dam owners must comply with. The corresponding guideline published on the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy's website is the Acceptable Flood Capacity Guidelines. This guideline is generally consistent with those of ANCOLD, and provides clarifications and specific thresholds to assist with regulation.

These dam safety standards are robust and have a solid basis in science and engineering. They are comparable with other international dam safety standards in Europe, the USA and Canada, and are regarded as best practice.