

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 219

asked on Wednesday, 27 February 2019

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Lockyer Valley Water Users Forum's submission to the Moreton Water Plan which included hydrologic data that identified a more equitable and fairer solution to the ongoing water allocations process in the region—

Will the Minister provide assurances to irrigators in the Central Lockyer Valley that the Minister will implement the findings from this submission?

ANSWER:

The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy has undertaken a preliminary review of all submissions, including the in-depth submission from the Lockyer Valley Water Users Forum, and there is much common ground upon which to build a collaborative way forward.

Senior officials from the department attended a Lockyer Water User Forum meeting on 26 February 2019 at the request of community leaders where they laid out a transparent strategy for moving forward in partnership with the community.

Through a program of short and long-term actions, the draft amendment plan will be finalised this year with a five-year review of those amendments informed by improved water metering and groundwater modelling.

The department will establish a stakeholder reference group to workshop policy ideas, share our new science and take the planning process forward in a way that captures the breadth of community views. The views of the community will be heard in shaping a final amendment plan for the area so that a range of water security and planning issues in the Lockyer Valley can be worked through.

This stakeholder reference group will help to ensure a plan is put in place which is sustainable, practical, locally relevant and adaptable to new information in the future.

The Queensland Government is committed to delivering the best possible community and industry outcome from both the water planning process and investment in investigations into additional water supplies. These initiatives combined will help to secure the significance of the Lockyer Valley as a prime agricultural precinct in Queensland.