

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 161

asked on Tuesday, 18 February 2020

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the water release from Paradise Dam in October 2019—

Will the Minister outline (a) how many ML of the released water was taken/used by irrigators, (b) how many irrigators participated in the free water release and (c) what is the total estimate of water that was unused throughout the release?

ANSWER:

Between October 2019 and December 2019, Sunwater released 103,945 megalitres of water to draw down the storage level of Paradise Dam to improve safety for downstream residents.

More than 96 per cent of the released water was stored or used for productive purposes, comprising:

- 25,000 megalitres that was stored in the Ben Anderson Barrage and Ned Churchward Weir for later use by Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme customers.
- 75,539 megalitres that was taken for free by Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme irrigators and supplied to non-supplemented streams not normally supplied from Paradise Dam. A small volume of water was also released into McCoys Creek near Bundaberg for assistance with fire prevention.

A total of 372 Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme customers took up the opportunity to participate in the free water release.

Within the Elliott and Gregory rivers catchments, there are 63 water licences that enabled water to be taken. In addition, three entitlement holders with a flow condition obtained a water permit, and a water permit was granted to a client who had no water licence.

Estimated unused water was 3415 megalitres.