

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 0162

asked on Tuesday, 18 February 2020

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

QUESTION:

With reference to a constituent reporting that Baroon Pocket Dam recently had a release when it reached 78 percent capacity after they were refused a request to release at 83 percent—

Will the Minister confirm if this is accurate and also confirm what the water release policy is for Baroon Pocket Dam in regards to capacity?

ANSWER:

The Baroon Pocket Dam operates under the Water Plan (Mary Basin) 2006.

Those rules allow releases to downstream landowners of Obi Obi Creek, within a 2000 megalitres annual entitlement held by the Obi Obi Creek Water Advisory Committee.

Recent releases at 78 per cent were to the Obi Obi Creek irrigators as per the rules.

Mary River irrigators have water allocations issued under the *Water Act 2000*, under provisions separate from the Obi Obi Creek landowners. Simply, the rules do not allow for water to be released to Mary River irrigators from Baroon Pocket Dam.