

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 215

asked on 11 March 2021

MRS D FRECKLINGTON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER (HON G BUTCHER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to Wivenhoe Dam currently being at 36.3 percent full (as at 3 March 2021)—

Will the Minister advise (a) what arrangement is there for access to stock and domestic water for the leaseholders and landholders around Wivenhoe Dam, (b) is there a current allocation available for Wivenhoe stock and domestic purposes into the future given the long-term grazing leases have 31 years before expiry and (c) how many long-term Wivenhoe Dam lessees hold a current stock and domestic licence.

ANSWER:

Leaseholders and landowners are granted physical access to the ponded area (which refers to the storage level and water line) of Wivenhoe Dam through a flood margin lease agreement with Seqwater. This is not a licence to provide stock and domestic rights; however, cattle may access the water to drink. The lease agreement manages the access across Seqwater-owned land as the water level in Wivenhoe Dam recedes.

There are no water allocations made from Wivenhoe Dam for stock or domestic water supply and historically a number of stock and domestic licenses have been repealed. Twenty-eight non-riparian stock and domestic entitlements are current. These can only be used where there is an existing water supply agreement for access with Seqwater. I'd also remind the honourable member that water from Wivenhoe is a critical and precious drinking resource for residents of Brisbane and surrounding areas.

If graziers can physically access water, then they may take water for (non-commercial) stock and domestic uses via a riparian right. No permit or licence is required.