

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 224

asked on 11 March 2021

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**MR L MILLAR** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER (HON G BUTCHER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Bedford Weir overflowing three times last year—  
Will the Minister outline any plans to restore the height of the weir and the 5,000 mega litres of water which was fully sold prior to the lowering of the weir in 2008?

ANSWER:

Bedford Weir is located in the Nogoia Mackenzie Water Supply Scheme, and Sunwater is working with customers to develop scheme storage and yield improvement options following historically dry weather conditions in the area.

The honourable member might recall that the height of Bedford Weir was permanently lowered following a tragic incident in November 2008. The permanent removal of an inflatable rubber dam (known as a fabridam) which was previously used to heighten the weir, was a recommendation from the State Coroner to remove and never reinstate.

Sunwater recently established a Low Water Storage Working Group to engage with stakeholders on low water storage issues, including Bedford Weir options, to improve water security.

The working group met in January 2021 to discuss a range of issues, including alternative water storage options to increase the scheme's yield to its former level. Sunwater presented and sought feedback on a project plan for a study to develop alternative water storage options, and options to increase water availability.

Sunwater will continue work on a multi-criteria options assessment framework, in consultation with the working group. Once finalised, the framework will be used to assess the options for further shortlisting.

Sunwater will also continue to engage with customers through the working group, to develop and deliver options to enhance water availability in the scheme.