

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 241

asked on 11 March 2021

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the government's current position on providing a long-term water strategy for the residents of (a) Mt Morgan and (b) Bouldercombe, Bajool, Port Alma, Marmoor, Raglan, Baree, Kabra, Stanwell, Ridgeland, Alton Downs, Yaamba, South Yaamba, Gorgango and Westwood?

ANSWER:

Under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*, the supply of water to residents in a declared service area is the responsibility of the registered service provider, which for the communities mentioned is the relevant local government.

That is, in most instances, including in relation to the communities subject of the question, the responsibility for urban water supply lies with the council.

Despite local governments having responsibility for local water supplies, the Palaszczuk Government has stepped up to assist councils previously, consistent with the Premier's commitment to not let Queensland communities run out of drinking water. Most recently, the government has assisted the Southern Downs Regional Council with trucking water to Stanthorpe.

I have spoken recently with the Mayor of Rockhampton Regional Council (the council) in relation to water supply to Mount Morgan. The Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water is engaging extensively with the council on water security in the region.

Engagement with council included working collaboratively to develop a regional water supply assessment for Mount Morgan in 2018 – with actions for council to consider in regard to long-term water security for the town.

Further, more recently, departmental officers have been engaging with the council including discussing the circumstances in which financial support from the state government can be provided, and relevant processes in that regard.

The Palaszczuk Government is fully committed to water security in Central Queensland. That's why we've committed \$186.3 million towards construction of Rookwood Weir, including the recent decision to raise the weir height.

While responsibility for water supply to these communities, both in the immediate and long-term, lies with council, I am always willing to discuss with councils any challenges they may encounter in delivering on this responsibility, including in relation to the potential for financial support from the state government.