

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 672

asked on 23 June 2022

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister commit to the raising of the Awoonga Dam wall, in line with the revocation put forth by his government for part of Castle Tower National Park, to allow for this to occur?

ANSWER:

I am advised by Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) that the revocation of part of Castle Tower National Park is part of a longstanding project being undertaken by GAWB to acquire all land around Lake Awoonga within a defined buffer zone and consolidate that land into a single parcel.

Water security in Central Queensland is a key focus of the Palaszczuk Government. The \$367.2 million Rookwood Weir project is well underway and, through the recent budget, \$40.4 million was allocated to Rockhampton Regional Council to construct the Mount Morgan Pipeline. The Department of Regional Development Manufacturing and Water is also working with GAWB on the Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline to improve water security for central Queensland residents and its large industrial base, while also catering for future economic growth, particularly in industries like hydrogen.

Complementing these key projects is the work being undertaken by GAWB to understand what augmentation of its existing network may be required to meet increasing water requirements from hydrogen proponents in the Gladstone State Development Area. The raising of Awoonga Dam is one of a suite of water infrastructure options which will be considered by GAWB to further support water security and meet future hydrogen needs.