

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1451

asked on 15 November 2023

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister confirm (reported separately by financial year) for the Tugan Desalination Facility from 2015 to present (a) the energy usage and (b) energy cost?

ANSWER:

The Gold Coast Desalination Plant is an important part of the South East Queensland (SEQ) Water Grid. It is used to supplement supply when variable rainfall in the region leaves some catchments with more inflows than others and when conventional water treatment plants are required to be taken offline for maintenance or during floods as we saw during the 2022 flood event.

In 2014-15, energy consumption (MWh) was 5,830. In 2015-16, energy consumption (MWh) was 4,509. In 2016-17, energy consumption (MWh) was 5,601. In 2017-18, energy consumption (MWh) was 8,424. In 2018-19, energy consumption (MWh) was 17,845. In 2019-20, energy consumption (MWh) was 58,358. In 2020-21, energy consumption (MWh) was 78,490. In 2021-22, energy consumption (MWh) was 23,932. In 2022-23, energy consumption (MWh) was 33,381.

In 2014-15, total energy costs were \$2,724,124. In 2015-16, total energy costs were \$3,108,530. In 2016-17, total energy costs were \$3,272,041. In 2017-18, total energy costs were \$3,294,216. In 2018-19, total energy costs were \$4,427,552. In 2019-20, total energy costs were \$6,374,073. In 2020-21, total energy costs were \$7,973,793. In 2021-22, total energy costs were \$6,416,120. In 2022-23, total energy costs were \$4,566,729.

The Queensland Government has committed to a greenhouse gas emission target of net zero emissions by 2050 and a target of fifty per cent renewable energy by 2030. In line with that target, Seqwater has also committed to a target of net zero emissions by 2050.

This Government is committed to assisting Queenslanders with cost of living pressures and has focussed on keeping the SEQ Bulk Water Charge as low as possible. For example, in 2023-24, the SEQ Bulk Water Price increased only by 2.14 per cent which is well below inflation. In contrast, between 2012-13 to 2014-15, the SEQ Bulk Water prices increased on average 12 per cent per year.