

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 534

asked on 10 May 2023

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the current review of the Mary Basin Water Plan and the change from area-based water entitlements to volumetric allocations—

Will the Minister clarify if (a) on average there will be a reduction in water entitlements for primary producers and (b) if so, why?

ANSWER:

The draft Mary Basin Water Plan proposes to amend area-based water licences that state a total allowable area to be irrigated, to volume-based licences that nominate a maximum volume of water that can be taken in a water year. The proposed amendment is consistent with other Queensland catchments and the National Water Initiative.

For existing area-based entitlements with no volumetric limit, the proposed methodology is six megalitres per hectare per year.

Consultation on the draft Mary Basin Water Plan closed on 26 May 2023. The Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water are actively considering submissions and applications regarding area-based to volumetric conversion. It would be inappropriate to make comments to this affect without all the conversion applications being properly assessed.