

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 771

asked on Wednesday, 14 November 2012

MR WELLINGTON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES (MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Minister's statement in Parliament on 13 November when he referred to 150 gigalitres of water identified in the Mary River Resource Plan—

- (1) Is this reserve of 150 gigalitres based on a series of hydrological modelling based on a large dam in the Mary River?
- (2) Does the hydrological modelling for this strategic reserve need to be redone, given there is no dam planned in the Mary River?

ANSWER:

- (1) The 150 gigalitres referred to is the volume of water that can be sustainably made available in the Mary Basin water resource plan area. The plan does not specifically designate this volume of water to the previously proposed Traveston Dam. The volume was identified using the Integrated Quantity Quality Model which uses long-term hydrological data to enable assessments of water availability to be undertaken. This strategic reserve was associated with the previously proposed Traveston Dam and, unfortunately, there remains a perception that the Mary Basin water resource plan still proposes the development of Traveston Dam. This perception is not correct.
- (2) The hydrological modelling for this strategic reserve does not need to be reviewed at this time. The strategic reserve is not specifically designated by the water resource plan to the previously proposed Traveston Dam. The strategic reserve provides an opportunity for other forms of sustainable water-related development that does not rely on a major on-stream dam. Additional hydrology modelling will be undertaken as required when opportunities are identified to make all or part of the 150 gigalitres of strategic reserve available to assist with the economic recovery of the Mary Valley.