



Anna Bligh MP

LAI UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE
THE CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENT



**Queensland
Government**

Deputy Premier,
Treasurer and
Minister for Infrastructure

13 DEC 2006

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000



Dear Mr Laurie

Petition No. 689-06 has been forwarded to my office by The Honourable Kerry Shine MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister Assisting the Premier in Western Queensland, as this matter falls within the responsibility of my portfolio.

Dams are just one part of a broader strategy to address the supply and demand sides of the water balance equation, including better utilisation and conservation of the water already in existing dams, cutting waste and excess use and adopting new technologies including recycling and desalination.

Work currently underway to support the water supply strategy includes:

- Advancing the first stage of the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme to supply industry;
- Design and early work for a desalination plant at the Gold Coast;
- Construction of the Southern Regional Water Pipeline that will help to create a water grid, linking existing and future water supplies and distributing water across the region;
- Significant water efficiency subsidies and incentives for home owners and businesses to use less water and to capture their own supplies where possible. From 1 July, residents from Noosa to the Gold Coast can access substantial rebates for water tanks and water saving devices; and
- Subsidies to support Local Councils implementing measures to reduce water distribution system leakage.

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Other strategies to increase supply and reduce demand in our region which are currently being implemented include:

- Managing demand (for example, targets for reducing consumption, water-sensitive urban design, targets for recycling, residential efficiency measures such as rainwater tanks);
- Managing wastage (for example, reducing mains pressure and fixing leaks);
- Additional storage infrastructure (new storages and/or raising existing storages); and
- Investigating potential groundwater sources.

Population projections indicate that there could be more than one million extra people living in the South East Queensland region in the next 20 years, with further growth beyond this. This will place enormous pressure on our water supplies. Even with the adoption of stringent water demand management measures and the implementation of recycled water and other water supply initiatives, it will still be necessary to supplement our supplies with water from the new dams. Otherwise, we will quite simply not have enough supply to meet demand.

The Government remains strongly committed to ensuring that communities impacted by these important infrastructure projects are fully engaged throughout the projects' development. An extensive suite of community engagement processes are either in-train or about to commence.

I'd like to thank all 531 signatories for bringing their concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Anna Bligh MP
Deputy Premier
Treasurer and
Minister for Infrastructure

Ref: TN 104559