

WATER LEGISLATION — PROGRESS

2505. Hon Alison Xamon to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Water

I refer the Minister to the answer he gave to question No. 2703, asked in the other place, answered 19 May 2010, and ask —

- (1) Will the *Water Resources Management Bill* be fully compliant with the National Water Initiative (NWI)?
- (2) Specifically how will the *Water Resources Management Bill* fully comply with NWI objective contained in clause 23(iii) — Statutory provision for environmental and other public benefit outcomes, and improved environmental management practices?
- (3) Specifically how will the *Water Resources Management Bill* fully comply with NWI objective contained in clause 23(iv) — complete the return of all currently over allocated or overused systems to environmentally-sustainable levels of extraction?
- (4) Specifically how will the *Water Resources Management Bill* fully comply with NWI objective contained in clause 35 – Environmental and Other Public Benefit Outcomes?
- (5) Specifically how will the *Water Resources Management Bill* fully comply with NWI objective contained in clause 37 (i) — water planning for secure ecological outcomes?
- (6) With regard to clauses 84 and 85 (Environmental Water Accounting) of the NWI, how will these principles be applied within the *Water Resources Management Bill*?
- (7) As drafting proceeds, which key environmental stakeholders is the Department of Water consulting with regard to environmental and other public benefit outcomes contained within the *Water Resources Management Bill*, which stakeholders have been, and are being consulted, and on which occasions have they been consulted?
- (8) What provision will be made to incorporate the statutory determination of environmental and other public benefit outcomes, within a water license regime, and a water resource management regime?
- (9) On what date did Cabinet give drafting approval for the *Water Resource Management Bill*?
- (10) On what date did Cabinet give drafting approval for the *Water Services Bill*?
- (11) On what date did Cabinet give drafting approval for the *Water Services Legislation Amendment and Repeal Bill*?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

- (1)-(6) The Member will be offered a full briefing when the Bill is presented to Parliament as per the usual process. As the Bill is still in the drafting stage, it would be premature to pre-empt the specifics of the eventual Bill and engage in hypothetical debate.
- (7) A wide range of stakeholders have been, and will continue to be, consulted as the drafting of the Bill proceeds. As the elected representative of a constituency, the Member will also have the ability to represent the views of other interested parties in the course of the Parliamentary process.
- (8) The Member will be offered a full briefing when the Bill is presented to Parliament as per the usual process. As the Bill is still in the drafting stage, it would be premature to pre-empt the specifics of the eventual Bill and engage in hypothetical debate. I appreciate the Member's interest and would welcome her thoughts on specific elements of the eventual Bill, should she wish to have input before her opportunity in Parliament.
- (9)-(11) As the Member would be aware, the deliberations of Cabinet are not made public.