

WATER — VARIABLE TAKE LICENCES

664. Hon DIANE EVERS to the minister representing the Minister for Water:

Recently, two 200-millimetre pipes have been laid from a farm north west of Seven Day Road and run south east along farm boundaries on crown land toward a sump on the upper Lefroy Brook at Palings Road. These pipes connect the brook to a dam higher up in the catchment owned by Travis Luzney, who has a variable take licence for 500 megalitres. The pipe is not yet fully connected.

- (1) Is the minister aware of this installation?
- (2) Were approvals required; and, if yes, have they been obtained?
- (3) Is it acceptable for a variable take licence to fill dams from a sump four kilometres downstream from the farm boundary?
- (4) As this dam and two others with 500-megalitre variable take licences along Lefroy Brook are already collecting water, how will compliance be achieved if it turns out to be a dry year when A-class licences should have priority over variable take licences?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Water.

- (1) The minister is now aware.
- (2) Yes. Required approvals have been obtained.
- (3) Yes, subject to the assessment and authorisation by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914.
- (4) The department undertakes a general and targeted compliance and auditing of water licences on a risk management basis to achieve a specified outcome or in response to complaints. In making an informed decision on entitlements granted in the variable take resources, provisions are made to ensure that the minimum flow thresholds are bypassed to meet the reliability of supply of downstream users, including the environment, before water can be taken under these licences.