

WATER CORPORATION — USE OF NANNUP BROOK AND GREGORY BROOK FOR  
PUMP-BACK PURPOSES

3169. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Water Resources

- (1) Can the Minister confirm that the Water Corporation intends to use Nannup Brook and Gregory Brook for pump back purposes?
- (2) If the answer to (1) is yes, will the Minister advise as to the following:
  - (a) have appropriate environmental studies been undertaken, before the project commences;
    - (i) if not, why not;
  - (b) have the Nannup Community and Landholders in the catchment been consulted;
    - (i) if not, why not;
  - (c) what will the impact be on stream flow; and
  - (d) is it true that there will be significant impacts on stream flow and landholders?
- (3) Has the Nannup Shire been consulted on this issue?
  - (a) if yes what was their response?
- (4) Has the Government made commitments to the Bridgetown Regional Water Scheme?
  - (a) If yes, what are the timetables and budgets for these projects?
- (5) Is it true that the Thomas Road bore will be used for water supply for Nannup?
- (6) If the answer to (5) is yes, why is the Water Corporation proceeding with proposals to pump back from Nannup and Gregory Brooks?
- (7) Given the Nannup Community, Landholders and the Nannup Shire are opposed to the pump back from Nannup and Gregory Brooks will the Minister direct the Water Corporation to reverse the decision?
  - (a) if not, why not?

Mr J.C. KOBELKE replied:

- (1) The Water Corporation proposes to develop a small pumpback structure on Nannup Brook to augment the supply to the expanded Bridgetown regional water supply scheme. It is anticipated that Gregory Brook will be required as a source for the expanded Bridgetown Regional scheme after 2030 to cater for projected growth. Further investigations will be undertaken for this component of the scheme into the future as required.
- (2)
  - (a) Planning investigations for the proposed Nannup Brook pumpback are currently under way. In the coming months detailed studies on the ecological and social flow requirements downstream of the pumpback will commence. This will include flora and fauna surveys.
  - (b) The Nannup community and relevant landowners are aware of the current planning status for the proposal, and have been advised that detailed consultation will begin as planning information becomes available. A community forum is scheduled in Nannup on 29 April 2008 to discuss the latest planning information about the proposed bore and Nannup Brook pumpback. Targeted consultation with landowners will continue throughout the planning process and project.
  - (c) The proposed pumpback will harvest water during high flow periods only. Summer flows will not be impacted. In line with regulatory requirements, sufficient flow will be maintained throughout the year to meet the needs of the environment and other downstream users.
  - (d) As above.
- (3) Yes. The Shire has been briefed and detailed consultation with them will continue as more planning information becomes available.
  - (a) The Corporation understands that the Shire has concerns about the impact of the pumpback on downstream users and the environment. They have asked that further planning information is provided when it is available.
- (4) Yes.

- (a) The key elements of the expanded Bridgetown regional scheme are targeted to be complete by summer 2010/2011. The estimated cost for these elements is \$140 million.
- (5) Yes, the Corporation anticipates that the bore will help to secure Nannup's drinking water supply in the future.
- (6) The Nannup Brook pumpback and Gregory Brook pumpback proposals are sources for the expanded Bridgetown regional water scheme and will not supply Nannup. The proposed configuration for the expanded Bridgetown regional scheme ensures the most sustainable outcome across the scheme, maximising use of existing assets where appropriate and minimising environmental impact. Utilising excess flow from the Nannup Brook and Gregory Brook provides a sensible low impact solution, with lower energy requirements (lower greenhouse gas emissions) and lower long-term operating costs for the State.
- (7) No.
  - (a) As outlined in answer 6. However, implementation of the Nannup Brook and Gregory Brook proposals will be dependent upon the outcome of the detailed studies on the ecological and social flow requirements and gaining all necessary regulatory approvals.