

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 399

asked on Thursday, 28 March 2019

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**MR D LAST** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the completion of outstanding feasibility studies under the Federal Government's National Water Infrastructure Development Fund—

Will the Minister (a) list the feasibility studies completed by the Queensland Government, (b) list the outstanding studies currently with the Queensland Government, (c) advise how many applications as expressions of interest the Queensland Government made as reported per round to the fund detailing the requested funds with their corresponding projects and (d) advise the total funding received to date through the Federal Government's National Water Infrastructure Development Fund?

ANSWER:

The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy makes a point of working with all stakeholders who want to propose a project under the National Water Infrastructure Development (NWID) Project. Thus, many of the assessments are submitted by local government, local regional development organisations and businesses, rather than the Queensland Government. As at 1 April 2019, 13 feasibility studies funded by the NWID Fund and being undertaken by Queensland proponents have been completed (see table A below).

Queensland proponents, with guidance from the Queensland Government, have approval for over \$97 million of NWID funding.

One of these studies—the Lakelands Irrigation Area assessment—has been completed by the proponent and the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy is finalising the reporting process associated with providing the assessment to the Australian Government.

As at 1 April 2019, two feasibility studies funded by the NWID Fund and being undertaken by Queensland proponents are still underway—both are to be completed by the mid 2019 completion date for all NWIDF feasibility studies (see table B below).

Twenty-eight submissions were provided to the Australian Government in 2016 for funds for feasibility assessments. Subsequent to consideration by the Australian Government, 15 projects in Queensland received funding for the NWIDF for feasibility assessments (see table A below).

With regard to submission for capital funding under the NWIDF, the following is a summary of applications made per round on behalf of Queensland proponents:

- Seven applications were made under the first and second rounds of applications of capital funding under the NWIDF, with two being successful (see table C1 below).
- Three applications were made under the NWIDF drought round (December 2018) and it is understood via announcement on 2 April 2019 by the Honourable Michael McCormack MP, Deputy Prime Minister, that one project was successful in securing funding, although no formal notification to the Queensland Government has been received (see table C2 below).
- Four applications were made under the third round of applications (April 2019) and are now being reviewed by the Australian Government (see table C3 below).

As at 1 April 2019, a total of \$17.8 million has been claimed by the Queensland Government for funding offered under the NWIDF by the Australian Government – all for feasibility studies.

**Table A: NWIDF feasibility studies completed by proponents (as at 1 April 2019)**

Feasibility study	NWIDF \$ (ex GST)	Proponent	Status
Lower Fitzroy River Infrastructure Project	\$2,000,000	Building Queensland	Detailed Business Case complete and sent to Commonwealth
Bundaberg Channel Capacity Upgrade Feasibility Study	\$750,000	SunWater	Completed and reported to the Commonwealth
Burdekin Haughton Channel Capacity Upgrade Feasibility Study	\$1,915,000	SunWater	Completed and reported to the Commonwealth
Burdekin Falls Dam Raising Feasibility Study	\$400,000	Dept. of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure & Planning	Completed and reported to the Commonwealth
Aquifer recharge for agricultural productivity and sustainability	\$120,000	Lockyer Valley Regional Council	Completed and reported to the Commonwealth
Clermont: Providing Water Security and Economic Growth	\$225,000	Isaac Regional Council	Completed and reported to the Commonwealth
Gayndah Regional Irrigation Development Project	\$1,231,024	Isis Central Sugar Mill Co. Ltd.	Completed and reported to the Commonwealth
Feasibility Study for North West Queensland Strategic Water Storage	\$1,765,000	Mount Isa Townsville Economic Zone Inc. (Mount Isa City Council / Cloncurry Shire Council)	Complete and reported to the Commonwealth
Tablelands Irrigation Project	\$750,000	Tablelands Regional Council	Completed and reported to the Commonwealth

Feasibility study	NWIDF \$ (ex GST)	Proponent	Status
Emu Swamp Dam	\$3,970,000	Southern Downs and Granite Belt Chamber of Commerce	Preliminary study completed by Southern Downs Regional Council. DBC completed and reported to the Commonwealth
Hells Gates Dam	\$2,200,000	Townsville Enterprise	Completed and reported to the Commonwealth
Utilising South East Queensland's treated effluent for agricultural production – NUWater	\$650,000	Queensland Farmers Federation	Completed and reported to the Commonwealth
Lakelands Irrigation Area	\$825,000	Regional Development Australia – Far North Queensland and Torres Strait	Final document received, DNRME currently completing the reporting of the final assessment to the Commonwealth

**Table B: NWIDF feasibility studies under development by proponents (as at 1 April)**

Feasibility study	NWIDF \$ (ex GST)	Proponent	Status
Nullinga Dam	\$5,000,000	Building Queensland	Stage 1 - Preliminary Business Case - completed Stage 2 Detailed Business Case – Draft in development
Urannah Dam	\$3,000,000	Bowen Collinsville Enterprise	Work underway - draft Preliminary Business Case in development

**NWIDF Part 2: capital funding applications:**

**Table C1: First and second rounds - March and September 2017**

Project	Description	Proponent	NWIDF \$ sought	Total Project \$
<b>Successful through the EOI process:</b>				
Mareeba-Dimbulah Channel Modernisation Project	Channel efficiency and other scheme improvements to provide additional supply to irrigators	SunWater	\$11.6M (41%)	\$28.1M
Nogoa Mackenzie Water Supply Scheme Efficiency Improvement project	Channel efficiency and other scheme improvements to provide additional supply to irrigators	SunWater	\$3.0M (26%)	\$11.7M
<b>Unsuccessful:</b>				
Lower Mary Valley Water Supply Scheme Glendorf Off-stream Storage Project	Construct an off-stream storage and network infrastructure to provide additional supply to irrigators	SunWater/MSF Sugar	\$14.1M (48%)	\$29.5M
Warrens Gully System Capacity Upgrade	Expand/upgrade existing infrastructure to enable expansion of irrigated agriculture in the Lower Burdekin delta	Lower Burdekin Water	\$4.6M (50%)	\$9.2M
Theodore Distribution Scheme Modernisation Project	Replace, upgrade and rationalise distribution infrastructure to improve delivery efficiency and reduce costs	Theodore Water	\$7.3M (50%)	\$14.6M

Project	Description	Proponent	NWIDF \$ sought	Total Project \$
Lower Burdekin Groundwater Strategy Infrastructure Project	Construct/upgrade infrastructure to reduce rising groundwater and improve water quality to support viability of agriculture and further development	DNRME/SunWater	\$12.5M (50%)	\$25.0M
Wamuran Irrigation Scheme	Construct a scheme to supply recycled water for irrigation, deferring need for expensive sewerage upgrades	UnityWater	\$18.6M (33%)	\$55.7M

**Table C2: Drought round – December 2018**

Project	Description	Proponent	NWIDF \$ sought	Total Project \$
Bungunya bore scheme	Development of groundwater bores and a distribution network to support stock and domestic uses and the Bungunya community to the west of Goondiwindi	Goondiwindi Regional Council	\$1.1M (42%)	\$2.7M
Lockyer Valley hydrometric network	Upgrades to the Central Lockyer Valley Water Supply Scheme and Lower Lockyer Valley Water Supply Scheme for real time flow monitoring and operations	Seqwater	\$0.12M (50%)	\$0.24M
Warwick recycled water for agriculture	Extension to recycled water network to supply existing and new intensive agriculture businesses	Southern Downs Regional Council	\$0.79M (50%)	\$1.6M

**Table C3: Third round – April 2019**

Project	Description	Proponent	NWIDF \$ sought	Total Project \$
Modernisation and growth of the Theodore distribution scheme	Replace infrastructure to improve system efficiencies and convert saved losses to allocations	Theodore Water	\$12.125M (49%)	\$24.82M
Warrens Gully system capacity upgrade project	New river pump station and upgrades to existing infrastructure to increase the peak flow capacity of the Warren's Gully Aquifer Recharge and Water Distribution System	Lower Burdekin Water	\$4.285M (50%)	\$8.57M
Central Lockyer groundwater irrigation modernisation	Introduction of a comprehensive metering and measuring program to improve scheme rules and enable better irrigation decisions	Seqwater	\$2.445M (49%)	\$4.989M
Lower Burdekin groundwater mitigation project	Design, construction and commissioning of infrastructure to help mitigate rising groundwater and salinity impacts on cane production; and line some channels to reduce leakage	SunWater	\$5.31M (49%)	\$10.84M