

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1887

asked on Wednesday, 27 November 2019

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the sustainable management of water in the Great Artesian Basin—

Will the Minister advise for 2017-18 to 2019-20 (reported separately by year) (a) the state government funding allocated in budgets towards the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative, (b) the number of bores that have been rehabilitated with State Government funds (c) the number of bores that have been replaced with State Government funds and (d) the number of megalitres of estimated water saved due to these measures?

ANSWER:

Queensland Budget Allocation	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (in progress)
GABSI 4 2017-2018 (3 monsoon delayed projects)	\$420,563	-	-
IGABIIP 2017-2019	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	-
IGABIIP 2019-2020	-	-	\$6,400,000
Total	\$4,420,563	\$4,000,000	\$6,400,000
Bores made watertight (rehabilitated or replaced)	3	6	8 (estimated)
Estimated volume (ML) water saved due to bores being made watertight	881	1011	738 (estimated)

The Queensland Government is pleased to be able to continue to work in partnership with the Federal Government on this vital program, particularly after the Federal Government's reversal of its decision to discontinue funding in the 2014-15 Budget.

As indicated in the table above, the 2019-20 Interim Great Artesian Basin Infrastructure Investment Program (IGABIIP) Project Agreement (PA) is currently in progress:

- The PA includes up to \$6.4 million in state funding (\$4 million + \$2.4 million carried over from the previous financial year).

- An initial 26 projects are included and the Minister has repeatedly sought a 12 month extension from the Commonwealth to realise approximately 30 further 'shovel ready' projects.
- Minister Lynham has written to Minister Littleproud seeking this extension and keenly awaits a positive response.
- The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy stands ready to engage with landholders prior to, and in readiness for, works in the 2020 dry season.

Queensland has demonstrated it can deliver projects efficiently and effectively. Seven projects were successfully delivered in 2018-2019, despite an extremely short timeframe and unprecedented monsoon season.

Moving forward, the Basin States are negotiating with the Commonwealth to develop a more flexible arrangement for the 2020-2024 funding program titled Improving Great Artesian Basin Drought Resilience. This is a direct result of the Commonwealth having listened to Queensland's concerns about potential delivery constraints.