

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 951

asked on Wednesday, 12 July 2019

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the on-going Paradise Improvement Program—

Will the Minister advise (a) how much has been spent on the project to date, (b) what is the expected total spend, (c) a final date of completion and (d) the date when the Minister will make the final decision on the options from the preliminary business case?

ANSWER:

- (a) Initial flood repair works were completed at Paradise Dam in 2014, following the 2011 and 2013 floods at a total cost of \$35 million. Initial staged improvement works to strengthen the spillway were completed in 2017 at a total cost of \$30.6 million.

Sunwater identified the need for further upgrades to Paradise Dam following a comprehensive dam safety review and portfolio risk assessment. The upgrades are required to strengthen the dam spillway to meet current dam safety standards for extreme weather events.

One option includes a full upgrade to the existing dam, and the other includes a partial reduction of the spillway. The total cost to date is \$3.77 million. This includes costs for developing concept design, ongoing risk and failure impact assessments and initial options assessment via a preliminary business case.

The detailed business case for the next stage of Paradise Dam upgrade works commenced in late 2018, and is being led by Building Queensland. The detailed business case will investigate and evaluate two upgrade options.

- (b) The total cost of the project will depend on which upgrade option is selected and, at this stage, full costings for each option have not been resolved.
- (c) Based on the current level of design definition and knowledge of existing site conditions, it is expected that delivery of the approved upgrade option will be in late 2025. Further development of the engineering solution will occur during the detailed design phase, and will be based on findings from a program of on-site investigations, such as geotechnical, and also any legislative or regulatory requirements which may apply.

- (d) Sunwater completed the preliminary business case in May 2018 to determine the best upgrade options for assessment in the detailed business case.

No preferred option has yet been identified, and upon completion of the detailed business case, any investment decision will fully consider long-term water demand from customers.