

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government

Supplementary Budget Estimates 17-20 October 2011

Question: 14

Topic: Green Hills Dam on Gilbert River

Asked By: Senator MACDONALD

Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 115

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2011

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Ms Fleming: The Office of Northern Australia participates in the Queensland Government initiative, which is a working group on the Gilbert River. We are aware of developments and participate in that working group, but it is not a project of the Northern Australia Sustainable Futures package.

Senator IAN MACDONALD: What is it a project of?

Ms Fleming: The Queensland Government is just looking at the Gilbert River.

Senator IAN MACDONALD: What is the Commonwealth's involvement?

Ms Fleming: We participate in that working group so we are kept abreast of issues that the Queensland Government is looking at.

Senator IAN MACDONALD: Can you tell me on notice what it is looking at? I understand the Premier was up there the other day wanting an urgent brief.

Ms Fleming: Certainly, Senator.

Answer:

The Department is an observer on the Queensland Government's Gilbert River Infrastructure Profile Working Group. The Gilbert River Infrastructure Profile Working Group, chaired by the Queensland Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, is developing an investment profile to assess private sector interest in the proposal to develop irrigable land on the Gilbert River through construction of a water storage facility near Georgetown.