

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question on notice

Tuesday, 6 May 2014

1115. Hon Robin Chappie to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Water.

In relation to the Federal Government's push for new dams across Australia, I ask:

- (a) has the Minister recently met with the Federal Agriculture Minister, Hon Barnaby Joyce, to discuss possible new dams in Western Australia;
- (b) if yes to (a), in the course of these discussions can the Minister confirm that the following possible locations for new dams were discussed:
 - (i) Scott River in the South West;
 - (ii) a site near Albany on the South coast;
 - (iii) the Midwest-Gascoyne region, including Murchison Palaeovalley and West Midlands;
 - (iv) the Kimberley; and
 - (v) the Pilbara's West Canning Basin aquifer and alluvial aquifers in the Hamersley Range;
- (c) if yes to (a), in relation to the Kimberley, specifically what location or locations were discussed;
- (d) if yes to (a), in relation to the South coast near Albany, specifically what location or locations were discussed; and
- (e) what is the Government's policy on constructing new dams in the South West and the Kimberley?

Answer

- (a) Yes.
- (b) (i-iii) No
- (iv) Yes, Lake Argyle Dam spillway project to increase dam storage for expansion of the Ord River irrigated farm land.
- (v) No
- (c) Lake Argyle Dam spillway project.
- (d) Not applicable
- (e) Groundwater abstraction, storm water harvesting, storage of run-off in public and farm dams and desalination will, where appropriate, continue to part of the Government's State wide supply mix for ensuring water for domestic, industrial and agricultural use.

NAW
30/05