

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question On Notice

Thursday, 20 October 2016

4561. Hon Robin Chapple to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Water

I refer to the Water for Food project at Mowanjum, and I ask:

- (a) how many production bores are there to supply the 38 hectare centre pivot;
- (b) when were they installed;
- (c) how long have the production bores been operating;
- (d) what was the original flow of the production bores after they were installed;
- (e) what is the current flow of the production bores;
- (f) how many megalitres per hectare per year were proposed for the project;
- (g) will the Minister table the monthly records of water flow from the production bores;
- (h) if no to (g), why not;
- (i) what were the salinity levels of the production bores when first installed;
- (j) what are the salinity levels of the production bores now;
- (k) will the Minister table the monthly or periodic water quality reports for the life of the project;
- (l) if no to (k), why not;
- (m) is there enough water of adequate quality to supply the 38 hectare centre pivot into the future;
- (n) if no to (m), why not;
- (o) if no to (m), where will the water come from; and
- (p) how much more land has been proposed for irrigation at Mowanjum?

Answer

- (a) Two
- (b) February 2015.
- (c) Irrigation commenced in August 2015.
- (d) Pump testing indicated each bore could sustain a flow rate of up to 70 litres per second.
- (e) A combined flow of 66 litres per second is required to operate the irrigation system.
- (f) 19 megalitres per hectare.
- (g) No
- (h) There is no requirement under the licence to record water flow rate, only meter readings.
- (i) – (j) [See tabled paper no.].
- (k) Yes. Data and information generated by the trial is being made available during site visits and local industry forums. At the conclusion of the trial a report will be made publically available.
- (l) Not applicable
- (m) Yes
- (n) Not applicable
- (o) Not applicable
- (p) The State Government approved an option for 4100ha of freehold tenure in November 2015. Of this Mowanjum Aboriginal Corporation proposes to establish an irrigation precinct, feed lot and supporting infrastructure.

Robin Chapple

Water for Food

Mowanjum Stand and Graze Irrigation Trial

Salinity readings for life of project

Date	Reading PB001 (microsiemens per centimetre)	Reading PB002 (microsiemens per centimetre)
January 2015	391*	
February 2015	359*	391*
January 2016	375	359
February 2016	359	344
June 2016	250	270
August 2016	244	361
September 2016	391 (31 Aug 2016)	370
October 2016	370	377
November 2016	364	348

*These salinity readings are from the bores, but were taken before the irrigation system commenced.

Water for Food

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