

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio  
2016 - 2017 Additional Estimates  
2 March 2017

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**DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

**TOPIC:** Water shortages in Townsville

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 2 March 2017, page 137)

**QUESTION No.:** AI-62

Senator KETTER: To understand what you said before, Mr Coffey: am I correct in saying that the ONA does not itself have plans to address water shortages in Townsville?

Mr Coffey: No. The responsibility sits with the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and of course the state government. They determine and make some of those decisions, but we will work closely with those jurisdictions and departments to ensure that development across the north can take place. If there are challenges and issues, then we will be talking to the responsible departments about those types of things.

Senator Canavan: And, just to be clear, the government certainly has a plan to help tackle the water situation in Townsville, but the responsibility for that is with the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

Senator KETTER: In terms of the development of those three plans we were talking about, you have said they are not directly within your jurisdiction, but can you tell us which groups have been engaged with in developing those plans?

Senator Canavan: I will have to take that on notice. I know there has been a role for Townsville Enterprise Limited in this process. I am not sure of the status of that. As I say, there have been some disagreements and delays in deciding on funding agreements with the Queensland state government. I believe they have only been resolved relatively recently, but I do not have the up to date details on hand. I will take that on notice, and we will probably have to consult with the department of agriculture for that answer.

**ANSWER**

Advice from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources is the Commonwealth, through the Feasibility Studies Component of the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund, is funding the Queensland Government to undertake three studies focusing on water resource development opportunities in the Townsville Region, which include: the Hells Gate Dam Feasibility Study; the Burdekin Falls Dam Raising Feasibility Study; and the Burdekin Haughton Channel Capacity Upgrade Feasibility Study. Questions about these studies should be directed to the Queensland Government Department of Energy and Water Supply.