

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

Budget Estimates 25 May 2011

Question: 17

Topic: Green Hills Dam on the Gilbert River

Asked By: Senator MACDONALD

Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 39

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011

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Senator MACDONALD: We spoke about the Green Hills dam on the Gilbert River. Are you aware if the department or any other agency of government—and I was speaking with Mr Deegan in Infrastructure Australia in the other committee before I was here—is looking at any other water storage projects apart from the East Kimberley? Apparently you are on the working group for the Green Hills dam?

Ms Fleming: It is my understanding that the department of environment has a water futures program, but I would have to take on notice the direct correlation between that program and our work.

Answer:

The Northern Australia Water Futures Assessment is a multi-disciplinary program being delivered jointly by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population, and Communities and the National Water Commission, in close collaboration with the Office of Northern Australia and state and territory government agencies. The Assessment seeks to inform the development and protection of northern Australia's water resources, so that development is ecologically, culturally, and economically sustainable. The Assessment does not seek to assess specific water storage projects.

The Department is not aware of any other agency that is looking at specific water storage projects.

The Department is an observer on the Gilbert River Infrastructure Profile Working Group.