

DAM CONSTRUCTION — PROPOSED SITES

1115. Hon Robin Chapple 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?

Hon Ken Baston replied:

- (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.