

Question No : 362

Question : Katherine-Daly Basin Development Project Report

Question Date : 10/05/94

Member : Mr CARTWRIGHT

To : MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRY and FISHERIES

1. Will the report of the Katherine-Daly basin development project be made public; if so, when.
2. Why was the report not publicly released at the time of the minister's announcement on the project on 1 December 1993.
3. Which outstanding issues are still to be resolved in relation to the project.
4. Will the project be subject to any public scrutiny before public money is committed.
5. Has the minister sought the views of the Minister for Conservation on the project and the impact that the construction of weirs and water pounding will have on aspects such as -
 - (a) water quality for those dependent on the river below the intended development site;
 - (b) the natural flora and fauna of the region, including migratory fish species;
 - (c) the potential for major salination problems to emerge, given that a particularly high fertiliser rate will be necessary if cropping is to be undertaken in the region; and
 - (d) the possibility of the water in the Katherine-Daly River system developing blue-green algal bloom, similar to that found in the Murray-Darling River system, after it has been altered.
6. What evidence can be provided to substantiate the assertion that there is a strong demand for land in the Katherine-Daly Basin, given that a number of current landholders are trying to sell their land.
7. Has a decision been made on the location of roads in the Katherine-Daly Basin area and will the road network along the Edith Farms Road be upgraded.
8. Has a review been conducted on the economic viability of the Katherine-Daly region given the recent improvement in pastoral conditions in Queensland and the possible impact this will have on cattle prices in the Northern Territory.
9. Is it intended to acquire land on Douglas, Jindare and Claravale Stations under the Lands Acquisition Act.
10. Is the minister aware that compensation related to the owners of Ooloo Station is yet to be resolved, 12 years after the property was compulsorily acquired for the Douglas-Daly project; if so, what guarantees can be provided that a fair price will be reached for Douglas, Jindare and Claravale Stations.