

Question No: 85

Question: Proposed Murrakai Dam

Date: 12/11/91

Member: Mr STIRLING

To: MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What area of land has the Northern Territory government acquired for the construction of the proposed Murrakai Dam.
2. What has been the cost of government land purchased for the proposed Murrakai Dam.
3. Does the Northern Territory government intend to proceed with construction of the Murrakai Dam.
4. If the government intends to proceed with construction of the dam, when will it commence.
5. If the government does not intend to proceed with construction of the dam, what is the proposed future use of the land already acquired.

ANSWER

1. The area of land acquired to date is 41 297.9 hectares. This is made up of 10 whole properties and a substantial part of one other property. Eleven more properties are subject to acquisition although most of these are only partially affected.
2. The total cost to date of land purchased has been \$1 659 669.
3. Yes. The Murrakai Dam is an integral component of the strategy to ensure that the Darwin region has an assured supply of water in the future.
4. It is not possible to give a time for construction of the Murrakai Dam as this is dependent upon the general growth rate in the Darwin region and the cost of construction, compared with alternative sources. The existing sources of the Darwin River Dam and the McMinns Borefield have a capacity to provide water for a population in the order of 100 000. At current growth rates, this is expected to be adequate until the first decade of next century. As well, a number of other supplementary sources are being investigated and will probably allow deferral of the dam for many years past that point.
5. Not applicable.