

LAKE VICTORIA - 23/10/07

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond); My question is to the Minister for Water Security. Exactly how much water is held in Lake Victoria, and how much is accessible by South Australia and on what basis?

The Hon. K.A. MAYWALD; I thank the member for his question and I also acknowledge the work he is doing on behalf of his community as the local member in Hammond. The regional communities are experiencing one of the toughest times that they will ever face and his advocacy on behalf of his community is to be applauded. As to the question of Lake Victoria, I think it holds about 600 gigitalitres. It is a re-regulating lake; in other words, the Murray-Darling Basin Commission uses it to move water down from Hume Dam to be accessible to South Australia as we need it. It is more of a re-regulating facility than a storage facility.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond); Again, to the Minister for Water Security, what constraints exist which prevent part of the Lake Victoria reserves of water for use by Riverland?

The Hon. K.A. MAYWALD: All water in Lake Victoria is accounted for under the full water sharing arrangements, and it has been accounted for in the calculations of available water for each of the states. It is merely a re-regulating structure to enable us to get access to water at the times that we need it and in accordance with our usage profile.