

Question time - June 7, 2007

LONG FLAT IRRIGATION TRUST

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond): Can the Minister for the River Murray advise how many irrigators in the Long Flat and Burdett irrigation areas near Murray Bridge are still to receive their rehabilitation deeds? The Long Flat Irrigation Trust still has not been able to strike acceptable terms with the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation to proceed with the rehabilitation of land, which is desired by both parties. According to the irrigators concerned, these negotiations have been drawn out by what they perceive to be the department's inflexibility and apparent erroneous handling of the detail.

The Hon. K.A. MAYWALD (Minister for the River Murray): I thank the member for Hammond for his questions. I will seek the details from the department and bring them back to the house.

Answer - 16/10/07

LONG FLAT IRRIGATION TRUST

In reply to **Mr PEDERICK** (Hammond) (7 June 2007).

The Hon. K.A. MAYWALD I am advised that guidelines for the restructuring and rehabilitation of the Lower Murray Reclaimed Irrigation Area (LMRIA) were approved in December 2003 by the then Minister for Environment and Conservation. The opportunity for restructuring then became available with some irrigators retiring from irrigation, while others consolidated their landholding. At the end of that process, there were 24 private irrigation trusts containing one or more irrigators actively farming in the LMRIA area.

In February 2005, the first irrigation trust signed their Rehabilitation Funding Deeds. Seventy five percent of irrigation trusts (18 out of 24) had signed their deeds by the end of 2005, and by the end of June 2007, all but the small irrigation district of Burdett had signed. The Burdett deed will be finalised for consideration of the irrigators once specific design issues are addressed. In relation to Long Flat, the funding deed was signed in June 2007.