



The Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for State Development and
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

Your ref 10.4 Petitions
Our refs MO/15/1304, CTS 12256/15

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22 JUN 2015

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr George and Alice Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 3 June 2015, forwarding for response petition 2399-15 (the petition) as tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 2 June 2015.

I would like to offer some points of clarification in answer to concerns raised in the petition.

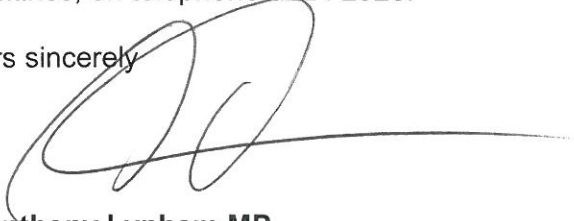
Recharge of alluvial groundwater in the Lockyer Valley occurs predominantly from stream flow which relies on rainfall. The recharge process is aided by a network of weirs that have been constructed throughout the Lockyer Valley, on both the trunk stream and tributaries, to assist with aquifer recharge from the watercourses.

Water use for the surrounding agricultural industry is managed by prohibiting the installation of any additional bores to take groundwater for non-stock and domestic purposes, so the current level of use is capped. The Department of Natural Resources and Mines (the department) operates a network of 452 monitoring bores in the Lockyer Valley to assess the levels of the resource at many points across the catchment. Readings from these bores indicate that groundwater, in many areas, is at record high levels. Time series information collected through data loggers is also available at some sites and may be viewed on the department's website if members of the public wish to monitor bore levels themselves.

The mechanics of alluvial systems in agricultural areas is complex and includes the combined effects of environmental, climatic, geomorphologic, economic and social factors, which cannot be easily explained in the context of its influences on the economic prosperity in the Lockyer Valley. The department continues to collect aquifer level data and to collate information on the use and behaviour of groundwater, as part of the water planning process. Some of these data are published on the departmental web-site but more comprehensive analysis is available on request. This information is extensive and detailed so it is not possible to publish it, even in a summarized form, in the newspapers nominated in the petition.

Pursuant to section 125(3) of the Standing Orders, I would be pleased if you would arrange for the tabling of this letter in response to the petition. Any enquiries regarding this response can be referred to Mr Paul Martin, Manager Water Services, Department of Natural Resource and Mines, on telephone 3224 2925.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for State Development and
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines