

## **Call For Consultants For Bicheno Town Water Investigations**

The State Government has announced the first stage of a program to identify the best options for augmenting Bicheno's town water supply.

Labor Member for Lyons, Heather Butler, said the Department of Primary Industries and Water, in consultation with Glamorgan Spring Bay Council have advertised for a consultancy to investigate and identify the best options available for dealing with the town's water supply problem.

"Our Government recognises the importance of a reliable water supply for Bicheno not just for its current needs but its future growth as well.

"Our Government wants to ensure that the best strategic solutions are identified to help ensure an ongoing reliable supply for the township."

Ms Butler said a consultancy would be commissioned to undertake the work which would build on previous preliminary investigations to ensure that the best strategic options could be identified.

"The identified options would meet not only the current domestic and commercial water needs but also look at the foreseeable future water needs of domestic consumers, taking into account matters such as possible impacts of land use changes in the catchment and climate change," Ms Butler said.

Ms Butler said while previous investigations had looked at options available for increasing supplies extracted from the Apsley River, this investigation would be much more detailed and look at other options as well.

"For example other options that may be considered include opportunities for reducing water demand through water use efficiency measures, improving infrastructure and operations, opportunities for a staged approach to augmentation of the water supply and assessment of other sources for meeting the varying water demands."

Funding for the study has been provided by the State Government as promised during the 2006 election.

Glamorgan Spring Bay Mayor Howard Harris said the assessment was an important step in addressing the ongoing water supply issue for the town.

“This summer has clearly demonstrated the necessity for additional water supplies for the town both to meet existing needs and to underpin future commercial and residential growth.”

“There may not be one simple solution to the town water needs of Bicheno and we have to ensure that any solutions meet the community’s expectations and are affordable,” Mayor Harris said.

“The engagement of a consultant provides the opportunity for all the issues and options to be identified so we can work together in finding some positive solutions to provide greater water certainty to the Bicheno community and visitors.”