

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 905

asked on Thursday, 13 August 2020

MS S BOLTON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise (a) the amount of funds currently held by government for the rehabilitation of mining land, (b) the progress of sites requiring rehabilitation and (c) whether any of these funds are available for the training and employment of land rangers to work on these sites?

ANSWER:

- (a) The regulation of the rehabilitation of operating mines rests with the Department of Environment and Science through its administration of the Environmental Protection Act.

The Scheme Manager of the Financial Provisioning Scheme in Queensland Treasury manages the Financial Provisioning Fund and surety provided by the resource sector.

I would refer the member to the relevant ministers.

- (b) Regulation of rehabilitation in operating mines is the responsibility of the Department of Environment and Science.

I would refer the member to the relevant minister.

However, the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy administers the Abandoned Mine Lands Program in line with the Queensland Government's Abandoned Mines Management Policy.

There are about 120 complex abandoned mine sites in Queensland. More information on some of these sites and the ways in which they are managed can be found at: www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/management/abandoned-mines/management

- (c) The training of land rangers is not within the designated purpose of the funds; however, the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy is committed to ensuring that, where feasible and appropriate, traditional owners are engaged and involved in the remediation of the sites.

By way of example and as I detailed earlier, the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy engages rangers from the Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation to undertake care and maintenance activities at its Collingwood Tin mine remediation project.