

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 744

asked on Tuesday, 24 May 2005

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DR CLARK ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES (MR ROBERTSON)—

QUESTION:

What is the situation at the Mareeba Wild Animal Park?

ANSWER:

The Mareeba Wild Animal Park remains closed to the general public. The park has been listed for sale by the liquidators and media reports indicate substantial interest from prospective purchasers. The animals on site are being cared for by qualified staff and the zoo is secure.

An audit of the Park's facilities and procedures was recently undertaken by a consultant appointed by my Department. This audit, including the adequacy of the enclosures and shelters, was necessary to provide information to my Department, the liquidator, and any prospective purchasers on changes required for the Park to be at a standard suitable for it to re-open to the general public.

The conduct of this audit was not a precursor to the sale of the Park. However a report of the audit was provided to the liquidators by my Department and has formed part of an "information memorandum" for prospective purchasers.

The Mareeba Wild Animal Park is important to the tourism industry in North Queensland and I am optimistic that the Park will be sold to experienced operators who will undertake the necessary modifications so that the Park can be reopened to the general public soon.