

Question on Notice
No. 117
Asked on Thursday, 8 February 2007

MS LEE LONG asked the Minister for Local Government, Planning and Sport (MR FRASER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to farmers seeking to sub divide their land who are often refused on the basis that breaking up 'good agricultural land' is opposed at a State level and as water can now be sold away at will, leaving 'dry farms' —

How can such land be considered 'good agricultural land' for sub-division purposes?

ANSWER:

Development applications to subdivide land are lodged with and decided by local governments having regard to the provisions of their planning schemes.

The State's policy position in relation to good quality agricultural land is reflected in State Planning Policy 1/92 – Development and the Conservation of Agricultural Land (SPP 1/92). Most local government *Integrated Planning Act 1997* planning schemes reflect SPP 1/92 and where not reflected, local governments are required to assess applications against the SPP.

The Department of Natural Resources and Water (DNRW) is the lead agency for SPP 1/92. Similarly, trading of water entitlements is administered by DNRW.

The question should therefore be directed to my Cabinet colleague, the Honourable Craig Wallace MP, Minister for Natural Resources and Water and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland.