

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 330

asked on Wednesday, 7 March 2007

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MS LEE LONG ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER AND MINISTER ASSISTING THE PREMIER IN NORTH QUEENSLAND (MR WALLACE)—

### 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 given that 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:

The protection of good quality agricultural land is a state interest promoted through State Planning Policy 1/92 (Development and Conservation of Good Quality Agricultural Land). This policy requires local governments to incorporate provisions that protect good quality agricultural land when drafting their planning schemes. This policy is available on the Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport, and Recreation website at [http://www.lgp.qld.gov.au/docs/ipa/pdf\\_doc/ag\\_land\\_1-92.pdf](http://www.lgp.qld.gov.au/docs/ipa/pdf_doc/ag_land_1-92.pdf).

As a result, planning schemes should require applications to be consistent with the protection of good quality agricultural land. The local government may seek advice from the Department of Natural Resources and Water under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997*, but this is not mandatory.

In some parts of Queensland, water allocations can be traded. This means that even if water can be sold away from land, it can also be bought to supply that land. However, it is important to note that water trading is not available to all parts of Queensland at this stage.

Land may still be considered to be good quality agricultural land, even though water is not immediately available to the land. This is provided a landowner can potentially access a water supply either as an allocation from a water supply scheme, a stream, groundwater or from on-farm storages.