

**Question on Notice
No. 778
Asked on Thursday 24 May 2007**

QUESTION:

MR GIBSON asked the Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism (Ms Nelson-Carr)—

With reference to her announcement of the imminent closure of 18 kilometres of beach access from Hook Point on Fraser Island and the subsequent admission that no date had been set to close the section of beach and that it would only occur after the full signage was put in place and the new beach campgrounds were fully established—

Will she advise (a) the anticipated date for the closure of beach access at Hook Point, (b) whether any assessment of potential radioactive materials from previous sand mining operations in the proposed camping areas has been undertaken and (c) in light of the Toyota Fraser Island Fishing Expo which was held this week on Fraser Island whether she discussed the potential impacts of the beach closure on this event with the organisers and what measures will be put in place to enable the 600 plus vehicles that usually travel on the Hook Point beach road to travel in safety on the inland road?

ANSWER:

- (a) A date for the closure of the beach has not yet been determined.
- (b) A radiation survey was completed last year by Queensland Health Scientific Services and their report was provided to the EPA Contaminated Lands Unit. The survey found there are no radiological concerns at the camp sites and that no remediation is required.
- (c) The organisers of the Toyota Fraser Island Fishing Expo work in close cooperation with the QPWS and are aware of the proposed beach closure. The QPWS is not aware of any concerns the event's organisers may have regarding the beach closure. Alternative access has been provided at the southern end of Fraser Island on an upgraded inland four-wheel-drive road, running parallel to the beach, which has been constructed to safely carry the forecasted volume of traffic at a maximum speed of 50kph. An independent and expert safety review of the upgraded road has been conducted and has confirmed that required standards have been met.