

QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 1387
Asked on Tuesday, 7 October 2008

MRS SCOTT asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR MULHERIN)-

QUESTION:

Will he provide details of the future relocation of the RSPCA?

ANSWER:

On 18 May 2008, the Premier the Honourable Anna Bligh, MP announced that the former John Oxley Youth Detention Centre site and adjoining land at Wacol would be provided for the relocation and expansion of RSPCA operations in Queensland. The former Redbank Rifle Range site that was originally proposed was untenable because investigations by the RSPCA revealed extensive underground mining on the site, which would restrict the amount of land that could be built on.

The announcement noted that the site, valued at up to \$7 million, will take the Government's contribution to the new operations to \$19 million. The Government's \$19 million contribution is made up of a \$10 million capital grant, plus the proceeds from the sale of the current Fairfield site estimated at up to \$2 million and the granting of the John Oxley site on a 99 year peppercorn lease valued at up to \$7 million.

RSPCA Queensland has outgrown its Fairfield depot and the Government has worked in partnership with them to find an alternative site for its relocation and expansion.

The John Oxley site has been dormant for seven years and as well as being a perfect alternative for the RSPCA, it is a great opportunity for renewal in the area. It has significant infrastructure already in place that can be adapted to meet the RSPCA's needs and at twice the size of the Fairfield operations there is plenty of room for it to grow.

The RSPCA has played a vital role in the protection of animals in Queensland for more than a century and this new site will ensure it has the facilities it needs to deliver its much-needed services in the future.

Since the announcement, the RSPCA has been working with the Department of Public Works on the redevelopment and will soon be ready to commence work on the site.

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries is responsible for paying the \$10 million capital grant to the RSPCA, and is finalising the arrangements for the grant in conjunction with the RSPCA.