

Question on Notice

No. 1530

Asked on Tuesday 28 October 2008

MR LINGARD ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (MR MICKEL) —

QUESTION:

With reference to the proposed Southern Rail Freight Corridor Study area that extends from Rosewood to the interstate railway line at Kagaru in my electorate of Beaudesert—

(1) Will he advise when landowners who could be affected will be given a firm acknowledgement of the State Government's desire to acquire their land?

(2) Will he advise a firm date or timetable when such acquisition will take place?

ANSWER:

I am advised :

(1) On 6 October 2008 Queensland Transport released a draft Assessment Report for the Southern Freight Rail Corridor Study showing the preferred alignment and associated impacts and land requirements. All land owners whose property has been identified as having a potential land requirement for the preferred alignment received a letter of notification in accordance with the Guidelines about Environmental Assessment and Public Consultation Procedures for Designating Land for Community Infrastructure, (CID) Guidelines. In recognition of the community's concerns, this letter also offered these landowners a personal meeting with a property officer and the study team to discuss the study and potential impacts on their property.

(2) Stakeholders and the community have been invited to make written submissions to the department with detailed information about how the proposed alignment may affect them, the surrounding environment and the community. Community feedback will assist the study team to gain a better understanding of local issues. Submissions have been extended and now close on 12 December 2008.

On completion of the study it is proposed that the preferred alignment will be designated as land for community infrastructure to protect it from incompatible development and provide the community with certainty of its location. It is important to note that designation will preserve the land for the future to ensure it is available when needed, but it is unlikely that construction of the line would take place in the next 10-15 years.

Formal land resumptions for this project may not occur until a decision is made to construct the rail line. However, landowners whose property has been identified as having a land requirement for the preferred alignment may be eligible to apply to Queensland Transport for a hardship acquisition.