

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1603**  
**Asked on 30 October 2008**

Mrs Cunningham asked the Premier (MS BLIGH) -

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the rescue package offered for the Marley Brown Oval that many in the Gladstone electorate have welcomed but seek clarification about and certainty –

1. Are there conditions regarding subdivision or rezoning of the remainder of the club before sale of the Oval and hand over to council?
2. Are the contributing coal companies receiving any special considerations on the basis of their contributions?
3. Were the coal companies aware that the contributions would be used to launch the Labor candidate for Gladstone's election campaign?

**ANSWER:**

My Government recognises the importance of local community facilities in all of our regional areas. It was brought to the Government's attention that the facilities at the much loved Marley Brown Oval were at risk of being demolished and removed from public use. The Government took the decision to write to the Gladstone Ports Corporation Limited and request the board consider necessary actions to save this important community asset.

As a result of the request to the Board, the Corporation approached all of its coal customers to contribute funds. This is in recognition that many employees and their families benefit from the Marley Brown Oval and other Gladstone community facilities.

In relation to your specific questions; currently both the club house and the sporting field exist on the same title. To enable the transfer of the Marley Brown Oval to be returned to the community it is necessary for a subdivision application and material change of use application to be approved by the Council. It is my understanding that these applications are currently in the process of being prepared for lodgement.

There was no requirement of any customer to contribute and no commercial objectives attached to any contribution.

It is disappointing that the Member is seeking to politicise the genuine efforts of so many local people and groups to save the Marley Brown Oval.