

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1646

asked on Thursday, 30 October 2008

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

QUESTION:

With reference to land previously rated rural but now rated as rural residential which has increased its nominal value and caused substantial increases in council rates (such as in the case of constituents of mine who have tried to sell 175 acres of fully timbered land but cannot do so as it is marked orange in Vegetation Management Maps and its nominal value has increased from \$50,000 to \$400,000)—

Will he assist land owners struggling with higher rates costs where their land is effectively locked up through vegetation management rulings?

ANSWER:

I can advise that Local Councils determine rates according to the services that they intend to provide and how much revenue they need to pay for those services. Valuations are one of the many factors taken into account by councils when framing their budgets and determining rates. It is not unusual for rates to rise, even though unimproved land values have not changed. Under the *Local Government Act 1993* councils have wide ranging powers to manage rates.

Further, I am unable to comment on how a particular property is valued by my department without access to property details information, which I would be pleased to receive.