

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**No. 1649**  
**Asked on Tuesday, 11 November 2008**

**MS LEE LONG** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR MULHERIN)-

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the land use classification scale (not areas suitable for cultivation) and the proposed sale of the State Research Stations at Kairi and Southedge and the retention of the Walkamin Research Station—

What areas of land, comparable to that sold at Kairi and Southedge, is available for crop research at the Walkamin Research Station and the residue of the Kairi Research Station combined?

**ANSWER:**

The establishment of an agri-science research, training and services hub at Mareeba supported by research facilities at Walkamin and Kairi was in fact based on detailed analysis of research needs through engagement with industry, staff and the community.

The recent review of these facilities carried out by Dr David Watson, Mr John Herbert and Dr Anthony Pressland identified the need for 40 hectares (ha) of arable land on the drier end of the Tablelands which could be serviced by Walkamin and 8 ha of land on the wetter end of the Tablelands which could be serviced by maintaining a 24.6 ha title on Kairi.

Walkamin research station is 259 ha. A survey has identified 93 ha of arable land, 45 ha of limited arable land, 87 ha of pasture land and 18 ha of non agricultural land. The remainder of the area was being used for research station infrastructure.

There are 13 separate soil types represented on Walkamin and Kairi Research stations. Of these, the soils derived from Basaltic Rocks are most productive and suited to more intense farming systems and the soils derived from Granitic Rocks are more suitable for tree crops such as mangoes.

The consultant's advice after engaging departmental science staff and industry is that the soil types and available land on both Walkamin and the Kairi node is capable of meeting all current research needs.