

Question on Notice

No. 1848

Asked on Wednesday 26 November 2008

MR KNUTH asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (MR LUCAS) –

QUESTION:

With reference to the Greensprings-Lower Rolley Road area at Wondecla, formerly agricultural and now designated as rural residential but referred to as urban under the 2025 Plan—

(1) Has the Greensprings-Lower Rolley Road area been targeted under the urban footprint as urban residential as a result of a proposed (not yet approved) urban development in the Greensprings-Lower Rolley Road area?

(2) As Wondecla is not connected to the township of Herberton as far as infrastructure and essential services are concerned, would that render the Greensprings-Lower Rolley Road area ineligible for urban residential zoning under the 2025 draft plan?

ANSWER:

The Regional Plan for Far North Queensland aims to manage growth in the region for the next 20 years. Land at Wondecla, southeast of the township of Herberton on the Tablelands, is included in the Urban Footprint in the draft FNQ regional plan.

Wondecla was identified as an alternative future growth area for Herberton, based on population projections and anticipated population increase flowing on from the growth in the mining sector.

The township of Herberton is relatively constrained due to its topography and expansion of the town is limited by surrounding state lands.

The nearby village of Wondecla and surrounding land was included in the Urban Footprint, based on the current zonings in the Herberton Shire planning scheme and suitability of the land for possible urban development. The current zonings, rather than development applications, were a key consideration.

The Wondecla township already has village, industrial, community use and parkland zonings under the planning scheme. The special facilities zone to the west of Wondecla, along the Greensprings-Lower Rolley Road is designated for a range of uses, including residential, refreshment services, agriculture, animal husbandry, camping ground, multiple dwellings, outdoor recreation, general store and motel accommodation.

The draft regional plan includes the Wondecla village, special facilities zone and rural land between these two sites within the Urban Footprint, however any future development would need to be staged over the next 20 years to ensure that infrastructure services were able to be provided in a timely fashion to support any growth in this area.

Comment on the draft regional plan and proposed regional land use categories has been sought from the community during a two-stage public consultation process between May and November 2008.

A number of submissions were received in relation to the Wondecla area, questioning whether the area would be serviced by infrastructure within the life of the regional plan. The Tablelands Regional Council has also raised concerns regarding its ability to provide the necessary infrastructure in the short to medium term.

Before finalising the FNQ regional plan all properly made submissions will be considered. The final plan is scheduled for release in March 2009.