

## Question on Notice

No. 502

Asked on Wednesday 16 April 2008

**Mrs Cunningham** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (MR LUCAS)—

QUESTION:

With reference to an advertisement in The Courier-Mail on Monday, 14 April 2008, that advised of a proposed State Planning Policy (SPP) to be developed on high impact industry and given the heavy industry development in the Gladstone Electorate—

- (1) Was the notification placed in the Gladstone Observer and, if so, when?
- (2) Has the Gladstone Regional Council been informed directly, by letter, of the proposal?
- (3) Does the proposed SPP have the potential to restrict development in small communities, such as Mt Larcom?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Gladstone for her question.

I am advised that the proposed SPP on High Impact Industry has arisen from the work of the Government's Accelerated Planning Initiative - Improved Land Use Planning for Land Uses project (API). This project was initiated following the Binary fire at Narangba in 2005 and is being delivered by the Department of Infrastructure and Planning (DIP) in collaboration with a number of State agencies. The Binary fire incident generated understandable community concern about the proximity of industrial land uses to residential development and other potentially incompatible land uses. This issue has the potential to arise in a number of locations across Queensland, and API aims to address these risks.

It is intended that the proposed SPP will provide a framework for appropriate planning and regulation of land uses surrounding high impact industries in planning schemes, with the aim of minimising the potential for land use conflicts and adverse impacts. The proposed SPP represents a clear and unambiguous Government policy response to minimising the planning risks associated with high impact industries throughout the State by ensuring there is sufficient separation between incompatible land uses.

In response to the specific elements of the Honourable Member for Gladstone's question:

1. I am advised that the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* (IPA) requires that where the State Government intends to prepare a State Planning Policy (SPP), the responsible Minister must publish a notice at least once in a newspaper circulating generally across the State.

Schedule 4, Part 1, 1 (1) of the IPA states:

*“If the Minister intends to prepare a proposed State planning policy, the Minister must publish a notice at least once in a newspaper circulating generally in the State.”*

The proposed SPP on High Impact Industry is intended to apply State-wide, and the Courier Mail is therefore considered the most appropriate newspaper as this newspaper circulates throughout Queensland.

Notwithstanding this, I believe the Honourable Member for Gladstone’s suggestion that advertising the Government’s intention to propose an SPP on High Impact Industry in select regional newspapers is appropriate, and I have instructed the Department of Infrastructure and Planning to this effect.

2. I am advised that notification of the Government’s intention to prepare a State Planning Policy for High Impact Industry was made in the Queensland Government Gazette on 11 April 2008, and subsequently in the Courier Mail on 12 April 2008. I am further advised that the Acting Director General also wrote to all Councils in Queensland advising of the Government’s intention to prepare an SPP regarding High Impact Industry. Councils, the community and other stakeholders may provide written submissions to the Department of Infrastructure and Planning by close of business on 11 June 2008.

Under the IPA, there are three stages to making a State Planning Policy. These include the preparation stage, consultation stage and adoption stage. The proposed SPP on High Impact Industries is currently at the preparation stage.

After all submissions are fully considered, a determination will be made as to whether to prepare the proposed SPP. In these circumstances, a further consultation period will occur. At this time, advertisements will be placed in the Courier Mail and select regional newspapers inviting further public submissions.

3. Although there is potential for an SPP to affect development in any location in Queensland, the proposed SPP on High Impact Industry is intended to specifically address the land use issues associated high impact industry. Specifically, the SPP will aim to protect both industrial areas and those communities located in close proximity. This may be achieved by ensuring that adequate buffering is provided between incompatible land uses. The SPP is not intended to preclude development of any kind, but to instead ensure it is appropriately regulated in the first instance.

While in general terms the State would have no intention of preventing compatible development in the Mt Larcom area, there is an expectation that any future development proposals for these areas will be formulated having regard to the SPP and the land use and development objectives of the Calliope Shire Council planning scheme and the State’s intention to continue to promote and encourage large-scale industrial development in the Gladstone State Development Area in the foreseeable future.