Question on Notice

No. 600

Asked on Tuesday 29 April 2008

Ms Lee Long asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (MR LUCAS)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the State Planning Policy on high impact industry –

(1) Through what print media was this process advertised in far north Queensland?

(2) When was it advertised?

(3) Were any of the four previous local councils (Atherton, Mareeba, Eacham or Herberton) advised directly?

(4) Has the new Tablelands Regional Council been advised directly?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Tablelands 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 Tablelands 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 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. 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. The Government has notified Tablelands Regional Council of intention to prepare the proposed SPP. The Government did not seek to notify the former councils Atherton, Mareeba, Eacham or Herberton as the proposal to make the SPP was made after amalgamation.

4. I am advised that the Acting Director General wrote to all Councils advising of the Government's intention to prepare an SPP regarding High Impact Industry including Tablelands Regional Council.