

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1241**  
**Asked on Tuesday, 15 September 2009**

**QUESTION:**

MR MESSENGER asked the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability (Ms Jones)—

With reference to Bundaberg Sugar's sand mining operation at Gooburrum Road and allegations that it is exceeding the legal extraction limit of 5,000 tonnes per year- Will the Minister authorise an independent investigation into these allegations given that departmental representatives stated at a public meeting that the Environmental Protection Agency has failed to monitor the sand mining operations?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Burnett for his question.

As he knows Bundaberg Sugar operates a sand quarry in an area known as Whymere, north of Bundaberg. I understand sand from the quarry is sold to a concrete block manufacturer in Bundaberg.

As Mr Messenger would be aware, State Government assessment and approval is not required unless a quarry produces more than 5000 tonnes of material per year.

Operating a quarry that produces more than 5000 tonnes of material per year constitutes an “environmentally relevant activity” under the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2008* and the operator must hold a development approval, which includes environmental operating conditions set by the Department of Environment and Resource Management, in its role as a concurrence agency under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997*.

The department has investigated the Member for Burnett’s claim that Bundaberg Sugar is extracting more than 5000 tonnes of material per year. Investigations included an inspection of the site on 28 August 2009.

DERM has also done an extensive investigation involving the review of a range of evidence including extraction receipts and truck movements.

The department is satisfied that Bundaberg Sugar is not extracting sand at a rate of more than 5000 tonnes per year. As such, Bundaberg Sugar does not need a permit from the department for the current extraction activity at the site.

If the Member has any further evidence to support his claims I suggest he provide it to myself or DERM officers.