

## Question on Notice

No. 1393

Asked on Tuesday 6 October 2009

**MS DAVIS** asked the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (MR HINCHLIFFE)—

### QUESTION:

With reference to acid sulphate soil from the BrisConnections Airport Link project being deposited untreated at 273 Bald Hills Road, Bald Hills—

- (1) How much soil is being dumped on site?
- (2) What steps are being taken by the government to ensure this soil is being treated promptly and to ensure zero risk of acid sulphate soil leaching into the local river catchments?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Aspley for her question.

(1) Approximately 300 000 tonnes of soil is expected to be treated at the site at 273 Bald Hills Road, Bald Hills, throughout construction of the Airport Link project. I am advised the site has been designed in accordance with Queensland guidelines and legislative requirements.

(2) Strict rules apply to the handling of this naturally occurring soil compound which is common throughout Queensland. Section 11 of the Coordinator-General's conditions for Airport Link require the preparation of an Acid Sulfate Soils Environmental Management Plan (EMP) Sub-Plan which details site specific prevention, minimisation, mitigation and monitoring strategies. The EMP Sub-Plan must be prepared in accordance with *State Planning Policy 2/02: Planning and Managing Development Involving Acid Sulfate Soils*, the *SPP 2/02 Guideline: Acid Sulfate Soil* and with reference to the *Guidelines for Sampling and Analysis of Lowland Acid Sulfate Soils in Queensland 1998*, the *Soil Management Guidelines* and the *Acid Sulfate Soils Laboratory Methods Guidelines*.

The Airport Link construction contractor Thiess John Holland has prepared this plan and it has been submitted to City North Infrastructure Pty Ltd (CNI) as the State's representative, the Office of the Coordinator-General and the Department of Environment and Resource Management.

The site in question is owned by East Coast Sand and Gravel who are treating the acid sulphate soil to neutralise it before it is re-used. The Airport Link construction contractor Thiess John Holland advise that a perimeter lime and control bund is in place to prevent run off.

The Queensland Acid Sulphate Soils Investigation Team (the lead agency for acid sulphate soil in Queensland) and the Department of Environment and Resource Management have reviewed East Coast Gravel's procedures and are satisfied that it is being treated correctly.