

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1656

asked on Thursday, 29 October 2009

MR ELMES ASKED THE MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY (MS JONES)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the answer to Question on Notice No. 1309 of 2009—

On what scientific evidence was the permit issued to dredge and re-profile a boat channel in the northern end of Lake Cootharaba to a depth of 1m below the low astronomical tide?

ANSWER:

The decision by the Department of Environment and Resource Management (the department) to approve the dredging works to re-profile a pre-existing navigation channel through Lake Cootharaba was based on expert advice from Maritime Safety Queensland, Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries and water quality experts within the department.

Assessment of the application undertaken by the department included an analysis of contaminants including sediment particles and acid sulfate soil within the lake to determine the impact of the dredging works on the surrounding wetlands and aquatic ecosystems.

The conditions of approval restrict the release of contaminants to ensure that environmental impacts remain within the navigation channel and require the applicant to undertake water quality monitoring during dredging works.

Of course, if the honourable member would like a briefing with the relevant DERM officers, I would be pleased to arrange it for him.