

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1828

asked on Thursday, 12 November 2009

MR KNUTH ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY AND MINISTER FOR TRADE (MR ROBERTSON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to proposed extractive industries in the Wash River/Bruce Weir in Far North Queensland—

- (1) Will the Minister explain his resistance to meet with concerned Dimbulah and Mutchilba landowners regarding the proposal currently being assessed?
- (2) Given that at least one measurement of lead and arsenic concentrations in the Walsh River bed sediment exceeds the low trigger level of ANZECC/NHMRC requiring investigation at the ecological level, what impact will the release of these metals have on the fresh water supplies in the Walsh River and systems downstream if extractive sand mining goes ahead?
- (3) Will the Minister assure the landowners downstream from the proposed sand mine that their health, rural communities, primary industries and the environment will not be compromised?

ANSWER:

- (1) My office received an email request on 17 August 2009 to meet with the Save The Walsh River Action Group regarding the sand extraction proposal at Bruce Weir on the Walsh River. Unfortunately, due to prior commitments I was unable to attend, and my office apologised on my behalf. However, Mr John Bradley, the Director-General of the Department of Environment and Resource Management was able to represent me at that meeting, and listen to the concerns raised by the Save The Walsh River Action Group. I understand that my colleague the Honourable Kate Jones MP, Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability and Mr Jason O'Brien MP, Member for Cook were also present to hear the concerns of the Save The Walsh River Action Group.
- (2) This matter falls under the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability's portfolio. I refer the member to the relevant Minister.
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