

Question on Notice

No. 1851

Asked on Tuesday 24 November 2009

MRS MENKENS ASKED THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES AND HOUSING AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (MS STRUTHERS)—

With reference to the redevelopment of the Seven Hills TAFE site—

- (1) What was the tender process?
- (2) How many companies were involved, what parameters were set and what is being done to alleviate community concerns over the impact of the development on nearby residents?

ANSWER:

The site is owned by the Southbank Institute of Technology, and a portion has been declared surplus to the State's needs and offered for sale.

The Institute entered into a seven month period of 'exclusive dealing' with the Brisbane Housing Company. This period expired on 31 October 2009.

The Brisbane Housing Company has advised that a conditional offer of purchase has been lodged to acquire the site. The outcome of this offer is not yet known.

As the potential buyer and developer, the Brisbane Housing Company is working with the local community to alleviate concerns about any proposed redevelopment and has conducted three community meetings as well as a number of consultations.

As the Member should be aware, there is growing demand for affordable housing solutions across Queensland, particularly for low to moderate income households. A priority for the Queensland Government is to increase the stock available to clients in greatest need and provide a range of housing options for Queenslanders.

The Queensland Government will continue to support any initiatives which aim to address the on-going shortage of affordable accommodation in the private rental market.

Even Lord Mayor Campbell Newman understands the need to provide affordable housing. On 1 December 2009 he told 4BC Radio:

"If we don't get real about providing affordable accommodation in inner city Brisbane, we will price the less well-off out of the city. And it's not just about people who are homeless. It's about people who provide vital services to our city to keep it going."