

## Question on Notice

No. 1856

Asked on Tuesday 24 November 2009

MBN11994 - MR RICKUSS ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT (MS NOLAN)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Southern Freight Rail Corridor—

Why is an environmental impact statement not being undertaken on the rail corridor before land is being acquired?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Lockyer for the question.

Environmental assessment is being undertaken in accordance with the community infrastructure designation provisions of the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* (formerly the *Integrated Planning Act 1997*). As Such, my department has followed the “*Guidelines about Environmental Assessment and Public Consultation Procedures for Designating Land for Community Infrastructure*”. The revised assessment report will be released early next year for formal public consultation.

A further environmental impact assessment will be undertaken close to the time of construction.

With respect to the acquisition of land, formal resumption of property will not occur until a decision to proceed to construction is made, which may be some time in the future. However, landholders whose property is identified as being required for the alignment and who believe they would suffer hardship by waiting for formal resumption to occur can apply for the negotiated purchase of their property under the Government’s hardship acquisition policy. A number of properties have been acquired under this policy for the southern Freight Rail Corridor.