

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1937

asked on Wednesday, 25 November 2009

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise (a) why applications to purchase adjoining land in the Charters Towers Regional Shire have been rejected, when most of the applications fit the criteria set out in section 123 of the Land Act 1994 and (b) how long the evaluation of the most appropriate use and tenure of the land will take?

ANSWER:

- (a) The Department of Environment and Resource Management assesses applications to purchase land under the *Land Act 1994*.

The application is reviewed in terms of sections 121 and 122 of the Act, and if the application is not made by a constructing authority, it will also be assessed against each of the priority criteria as set out in section 123 of the Act.

An application is required to satisfy one or more of the priority criteria before tenure can be allocated without the need for public competition.

If the assessment process identifies that there may be other persons who could have an interest in acquiring the area applied for, an application will be rejected as it has not satisfied section 123 of the Act. The department will then consider offering the land for public competition.

There has been considerable interest shown in the lands held by the State within the Charters Towers Regional Council area.

- (b) In regard to an evaluation of the most appropriate use and tenure of State land in the area, the department is working with the Charters Towers Regional Council to identify land needed for residential and community purposes. The evaluation is expected to be completed in 2010.