

Question on Notice

No. 475

Asked on Thursday, 11 March 2010

MRS CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (MR HINCHLIFFE) –

QUESTION:

With reference to a number of studies that have been carried out to determine social and built infrastructure needs for the Gladstone Electorate in light of industry development (especially LNG) –

What areas of need have been identified?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Gladstone for her question.

Investment in social infrastructure is essential to ensure the well-being and economic prosperity of all communities.

With the Gladstone region on the verge of yet another significant industry development phase, the Queensland Government in collaboration with the Gladstone Regional Council, initiated a study at the beginning of 2009 to develop an action plan to guide future investment in strategic social infrastructure within the region.

This study, known as the Social Infrastructure Strategic Plan for the Gladstone region, is now nearing completion. A draft action plan detailing the findings and recommendations of the study will be available within weeks.

Backing up this work was an in-depth audit of the existing stock of social infrastructure within the Gladstone region; a full benchmarking of the Gladstone region against other areas of the State with a comparative population; plus extensive community engagement to determine needs.

This has been a significant study with major input from the Gladstone community to identify priorities for investment in social infrastructure. It will ensure contributions to support social infrastructure from major project proponents, such as the current liquefied natural gas (LNG) proponents, are directed to the areas of highest priority. It will also ensure scarce funds are allocated to areas which will make a real difference to the quality of life for the people of Gladstone, now and into the future.

With the help of the Gladstone community, a number of social infrastructure needs have been identified. The soon to be released draft action plan will address these needs through the development of a priority infrastructure schedule for the region.

There are currently seven proponents who have publicly announced a coal seam gas/ LNG project and are seeking to construct LNG plants at Gladstone; five of these are seeking sites on Curtis Island.

As part of the Environmental Impact Statement process, these LNG industry proponents will be required to develop a draft Social Impact Management Plan, after consultation with community groups and Government agencies and after undertaking studies covering demographics, social constraints for land use, economics, social infrastructure, marine recreation, labour markets, health, heritage, housing, traffic, and education and training.