

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 871

asked on Thursday, 29 November 2012

MR JOHNSON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES (MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

What are the latest developments in protecting the golden triangle strategic cropping land from the proposed Bandanna Energy mining project?

ANSWER:

The Springsure Creek coal project is a proposed underground coal mine owned by Springsure Creek Coal Pty Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bandanna Energy Ltd.

Under the previous government, Bandanna Energy's proposed Springsure Creek coal project is limited by specific transitional provisions contained in the *Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011* (SCL Act). These provisions include requirements that no open cut mining can be carried out should a mining lease be granted, and that all reasonable endeavours must be used to rehabilitate all impacts on the land that result from underground coal mining.

In April this year, the issuing of the Certificate of Application for mining lease application (MLA70461) made for the Springsure Creek project was repealed after several deficiencies in information were identified. The application did not meet Queensland's stringent state approval process and failed to provide the relevant information required under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*.

On 19 October 2012, a new mining lease application was lodged for the Springsure Creek project (MLA 70486). The department is currently reviewing the application to ensure it meets all necessary requirements under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*.

Should the Springsure Creek coal project proceed, Bandanna Energy will be required to lodge an application for assessment of its project under the SCL Act. Appropriate conditions may be imposed on the project to minimise any impacts on strategic cropping land.

Bandanna Energy is required to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed Springsure Creek coal project, which will be made available for public review and comments.

The government is committed to protecting the state's important agricultural land by developing an improved system of statutory regional plans. This is why, as a matter of priority, the regional planning process for the Darling Downs and Central Queensland (including the Golden Triangle) has commenced.

The regional planning process will involve extensive local community input and ensure that, in future, a balanced approach to land use planning between agriculture and mining is achieved.