Question on Notice

No. 335

Asked on 2 May 2013

MR PITT ASKED THE TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE (MR NICHOLLS)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland Audit Office report titled ‘Best Practice Guidelines for the sale of Material Public Assets’, dated January 1999, and point 5.2 ‘Undertake a Review of the Sale Process’—

Will the Treasurer undertake to complete the required post-sale report into the sale of seven State Government office buildings in the Brisbane CBD including the David Longland Building, Education House, 61 Mary Street, the Primary Industries Building, 111 George Street, 33 Charlotte Street and Mineral House and, if not, why not?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Audit Office’s “Best Practice Guidelines for the Sale of Material Public Sector Assets” is not applicable to the Government office arrangements entered into with the Queensland Investment Corporation, a Government Owned Corporation, as the transaction is not considered to be a sale of material public assets as contemplated by the guidelines.

Governments transact land all the time to support their day to day to operations. It is noted that the former Government did not complete Sales Summary Reports in accordance with the Queensland Audit Office’s “Best Practice Guidelines for the Sale of Material Public Sector Assets” for the numerous Government office accommodation transactions that it undertook during its time in Government, nor for the sale of Sun Retail, Sun Gas, Powerdirect and Allgas in 2006/07, or the transfer of shares in the Brisbane Airport Corporation in 2007, or the sale of Cairns and Mackay Airports in 2008.

The Government’s transaction with the Queensland Investment Corporation was overseen by an independent Probity Advisor.