

Question on Notice

No. 587

Asked on Wednesday, 21 August 2013

MRS CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR EMERSON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to Gladstone Ports Corporation's negotiations for compensation for fishermen affected by harbour dredging—

Have those negotiations concluded and, if not, when will fishing families be appropriately compensated?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Gladstone for the question.

As of 23 August 2013, 28 applications for compensation had been made to Gladstone Ports Corporation by commercial fishers claiming to be affected by harbour dredging.

All of these applications have undergone an initial assessment. A total of 16 applications have been deemed eligible. 15 offers have been made and a further one is being prepared. Of these 15 offers, three have so far been accepted with two payments already made and a further one currently in process.

12 applications received were deemed not to meet the eligibility criteria. A response to four of these declined applications has been conveyed with the remaining eight currently in preparation.

I note that all applications are underway and the awarding and acceptance of compensation is subject to a formal process of written offers and acceptance. Once applications are approved the parties enter into a Compensation Agreement before payment occurs which can take some time to properly finalise.