

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 348**

**Asked on Wednesday, 7 May 2014**

**MR KNUTH** asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR EMERSON) —

### **QUESTION:**

With reference to Ravenshoe Rail that has not been allocated even one railway sleeper or spike, despite placing many requests for sleepers and other railway materials through the appropriate channels—

Will the Minister disclose the \$2m funding arrangements allocated to the Mary Valley Rattler and any other one-off special funding arrangements of money or goods that have been granted to heritage rail groups?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Dalrymple for the question.

As an element of its Mary Valley Economic Development Strategy, the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning has set aside funding of \$2 million for works to recommission the Mary Valley rail line.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads as the Perpetual Lease holder of railway land supports heritage rail groups via tenure agreements with generous terms and conditions, including peppercorn rentals for terms ranging between 10 and 30 years.

Ravenshoe Rail currently has a 10-year lease from the Department of Transport and Main Roads attracting a peppercorn rental. The terms and conditions include permission to operate community events such as markets, public displays, car parking and associated activities including the management of tourist rest stops and marketing of refreshments, souvenirs and literature. The heritage railway has the ability to retain proceeds derived from promoting the above events.

Timber sleepers from the closed Mareeba to Atherton rail corridor were offered to Ravenshoe Railway, however these were found to be unsuitable for the heritage railway. Ravenshoe Railway also declined an offer to use steel sleepers from the corridor.