

Question on Notice

No. 377

Asked on 20 May 2014

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

QUESTION:

With reference to proposals to sell or lease Gladstone Ports Corporation which is opposed by Gladstone residents—

Will any decision to privatise the port ensure the financial obligations agreed to by Gladstone Ports Corporation in relation to infrastructure development in partnership with Gladstone Regional Council?

ANSWER:

After receiving a record number of People's Budget submissions from the Strong Choices campaign, the Queensland Government has released the *Strongest and Smartest Choice – Queensland's Plan for Secure Finances and a Strong Economy*. People's Budget submissions that contributed to the development of this plan showed that of the three choices facing Queenslanders, 46 per cent of people mostly chose selling or leasing assets, compared to 28 per cent mostly choosing to increase taxes and 18 per cent mostly choosing to reduce services.

Our plan includes a proposal for the long term lease of Gladstone Port and the use of some of those proceeds for infrastructure investment around the State. This proposal will not be implemented until the Government has taken this methodical and disciplined plan to the next State election.

Any existing contractual obligations will continue to be met by the Gladstone Ports Corporation and Gladstone Regional Council. As an example, this would include the Gladstone Ports Corporation's and the Gladstone Regional Council's redevelopment of the Gladstone Entertainment and Convention Centre, where there is an ongoing relationship between the parties in respect of shared facilities.