

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 1472**

**Asked on 2 December 2015**

**DR ROBINSON** asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade (MS TRAD) –

### **QUESTION:**

With regard to the Redland City Council (Draft) Planning Scheme, for which the community consultation period closed on Friday 27 November 2015, will the Minister advise (a) if application of the government's storm tide modelling instructions to local government authorities has the underlying assumption that 100% of Queensland's coastline will be subjected to the equivalent of a severe Category 5 cyclone over the next 100 years that causes extensive coastal flooding and large areas of erosion, (b) the measures the government is taking to counter the increased insurance premiums for owners of coastal and canal properties and to prevent the likely impact on property values, (c) why the government is singling-out residents and owners of selected waterfront properties for special treatment and (d) when the government will table its comprehensive plans for Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Adaptation and show how it intends to fund the program?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Honourable Member for Cleveland for the question.

The following is offered in response to each of the Honourable Member's questions:

- a) The Government has been providing local councils science-based calculated coastal erosion advice since the late 1960s. Since the mid-1990s, the erosion prone area and storm tide inundation calculations have included a climate-change related sea level rise factor, with the exception of the period December 2014 to July 2015 as a result of a decision by the previous Government. Currently the sea level rise factor is 0.8 metres by 2100. The calculations use a 1% or 'one in one hundred' average recurrence interval storm event. It is not scientifically sound to equate an average storm interval with a particular cyclone category as it is the intensity of a storm event and the time of the tide cycle at which it approaches shore, along with many other factors, that determine the actual extent of storm tide inundation.

High resolution mapping of erosion prone and storm tide inundation areas are based on modern Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) digital elevation models. This coastal hazard mapping is publicly available and is used by councils to guide planning and development decisions.

- b) The Government does not control premiums charged by insurers for owners of properties in areas the insurers consider to be of high risk, whether that be a natural risk, such as coastal or riverine flooding or bushfires, or other risks. Nor does the government control the property market. But we know these risks exist and it is reasonable that this information is publicly available. It is not realistic for Government to guarantee land owners against their own decisions when they buy land.
- c) The geographic features of an area govern the degree of risk faced by specific properties. Low-lying coastal areas are more susceptible to coastal hazard risks than other areas. The Government does not pretend that these hazards do not exist and supports the consensus science that rising sea levels, along with other climate change related factors will extend the area at risk.
- d) This Government is working actively to facilitate a climate adaptation program. Twelve million dollars has been allocated over three years to assist local councils to prepare coastal hazard adaptation plans. The initial tranche of funding has already been provided to the Local Government Association of Queensland who has agreed to administer this program. Many coastal councils have already expressed keen interest and a first call for project bids is expected to be made in February 2016. More broadly, the Government is committed to preparing and releasing for public review the Queensland Climate Adaptation Plan, which is being prepared in conjunction with a wide range of partners from a variety of industry groups, social sectors and environment interests. The draft plan is expected to be released by mid-2016 and will include a range of actions the private and public sectors intend to take to adapt to our changing climate.

As I have previously advised in Question on Notice No 1417, when a local government makes a new planning scheme, such as the proposed *Redland City Plan 2015*, I must consider whether a planning scheme appropriately integrates any relevant State interests, such as coastal hazards, during the State Interest Review Stage. For the proposed City Plan, the Redland City Council engaged a third party consultant to prepare a fit for purpose study that identified coastal hazards at a local level utilising an integrated evidence-based process and a conservative methodology accepted by the State. Consequently, on 20 August 2015 I advised the Council that I was satisfied that all relevant State interests, including coastal hazards, were appropriately integrated into the proposed City Plan and gave conditional approval to proceed to public consultation.