

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 588

asked on Wednesday, 15 July 2015

MR BENNETT ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON DR S MILES)—

QUESTION:

For the period 14 February to 30 June 2015, will the Minister advise (a) the total number of assets sold by the portfolio's departments, agencies and associated entities above the value of \$10,000, (b) a description of each asset sold above the value of \$10,000, (c) the value of each asset listed in (b), and (d) the method by which each asset listed in (b) was disposed?

ANSWER:

The Labor Party made a commitment at the 2015 State election to retain the government-owned corporations worth approximately \$37 billion that were proposed for sale by the Newman LNP Government under its Strong Choices campaign. We will ensure that these assets stay in public hands so that they can continue to deliver dividends to the people of Queensland to help the government provide the infrastructure and frontline services that our state needs.

Transactions to replace and upgrade vehicles, plant, equipment and property have always occurred in Queensland under governments of all political persuasions, and they will continue to occur when and where a transaction is deemed to be of public benefit.

These transactions are conducted to support the government's priorities for economic growth, job creation and frontline service delivery. This approach was recognised by the Member for Southern Downs in his advice to the 2014 Health Estimates hearing that:

“Indeed, from time to time there may be vacant land or other assets—small pieces of land—that will be sold.” (Health and Community Services Committee Estimates hearing transcript, 15 July 2014, page 6).

Further, the Member went on to state:

“There may be some small parcels of land from time to time that will be managed for sale and reinvestment. That is not an unusual thing...” (Health and Community Services Committee Estimates hearing transcript, 15 July 2014, page 6).

I have been advised that it would be neither practicable nor reasonable to divert the resources of government departments, agencies and entities to identify and list all of the transactions requested in the Member's question. To do so would require a vast amount of work diverting officers and funding away from the provision of services to Queenslanders. This is consistent with the level of disclosure of the Member for Southern Downs as a former Minister.