

**Question on Notice**

**No. 100**

**Asked on 15 February 2017**

**MR S KNUTH** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

With reference to small miners currently required to pay thousands of dollars up front for each pegged site as part of the Emergency Services levy scheme which came into effect in 2014—

Will the Minister commit to finalising an appropriate and affordable structure for these family operations before the end of the financial year?

ANSWER:

As the Member notes, the Emergency Management Levy (EML) change was introduced in 2014 under the previous LNP government.

I am advised that given mining operations are often smaller scale operations in remote areas of the State, the EML in E Class levy districts is capped at levy group 6 (\$1,458.40 for 2016-17) regardless of the size of the mining lease area. Queensland Fire and Emergency Services is aware of this issue and is working towards an outcome that will be in everyone's best interests.

In the interim, I am informed that assistance is in place to help local governments to categorise remote mining leases. Where mining leases are not being worked and have no permanent structures associated with mining, local government authorities may accept a statutory declaration from the lease holder and categorise the lease as vacant land accordingly. The EML on vacant land in the E Class levy district is \$25 for 2016-17.

I am advised that, given the complexity of this issue and the work that is currently underway, QFES is not in a position to make an undertaking about its finalisation at this time.