

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1349

asked on Tuesday, 16 October 2018

MR S ANDREW ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

With reference to landowners' concerns, in the lead up to storm season, about the destruction of watercourses and their ability to rehabilitate and rectify damage to creeks and waterways after a natural disaster (e.g. cyclone and flooding)—

Will the Minister advise of any plans the Queensland Government has to reinstate the river improvement trusts?

ANSWER:

There are 11 river improvement trusts in Queensland—three in the Darling Downs region, two in South East Queensland, and six on the tropical north coast between Whitsunday and Mossman. These trusts are established under the *River Improvement Trust Act 1940*. The object of the Act is to provide for the responsible management of river catchment areas through:

- planning for and implementing measures that improve the protection, health and resilience of rivers and their catchments
- repairing and preventing damage to rivers and their catchments
- restoring natural resilience to flooding and cyclones in rivers and their catchments
- protecting water security
- improving water quality and river system function in rivers and their catchments.

Under the Act, a local government may make an application to the Minister to establish a river improvement trust in its area, and may also apply to abolish a river improvement trust.

As per the Act, a local government or two or more local governments acting jointly may apply to the Minister for the establishment, change or abolition of a river improvement area. The Minister must consider an application under section 3(3) of the Act and make a recommendation on the application to the Governor in Council.