

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 1372**

**Asked on 16 October 2018**

**MRS S WILSON ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES (HON M FURNER)—**

### **QUESTION:**

With reference to the Palaszczuk Labor Government asset sale of the Joondoburri Conference Centre—

Will the Minister advise what steps he will be taking to ensure the asset sale is communicated to the community, prior to any tender process commencing?

### **ANSWER:**

It is a normal part of Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' (DAF) business, including under the previous government, to dispose of properties or sections of properties that are no longer required for agency business. On 27 September 2018, senior DAF officers, together with staff from my office, briefed the Member for Pumicestone on the proposal and subsequently sent the Member a media release before its distribution.

Over the past 12 months, DAF has received a number of unsolicited enquiries from both the public and private sectors to use the Joondoburri land area of the Bribie Island Research Centre (BIRC) site for aquaculture.

The Government is planning to run an open, public process seeking expressions of interest from interested parties to purchase the land for aquaculture and related use, once all relevant approvals have been obtained.

Unlocking the land will provide a rare opportunity to invest in Queensland's growing aquaculture industry which is currently worth an estimated \$125 million to the Queensland economy.

Communication of the proposed divestment is planned to be through:

- an information statement distributed as part of the November edition of the Division 1 Councillor Brooke Savage's bi-monthly newsletter; and
- a direct mail-out to all residents in the Woorim area prior to any major works commencing at the site.

A media release on the proposed divestment was distributed on 13 October 2018 and published in both *The Courier Mail* and the *Bribie Weekly*.

The DAF Call Centre and BIRC staff are directing enquiries to senior DAF staff who speak directly with any persons seeking information.