

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1385

asked on Wednesday, 17 October 2018

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**MR L MILLAR** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the government's release of exploration tenders for resource development, both coal and gas, over large areas of valuable designated strategic cropping land in the Central Highlands' Golden Triangle—

Will the Minister commit to protecting this land by insisting that proponents of resource development receive a Regional Interest Authority, prior to applying for any resource exploration or production authority?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government has a robust regulatory framework to facilitate co-existence between the petroleum and gas industry and existing agricultural operations, including obligations under the *Regional Planning Interest Act 2014* (RPI Act).

Resource authorities may be granted over areas that overlap land mapped as strategic cropping areas (SCAs), however no on-ground activities can occur until resource companies have applied for and receive a development approval under the RPI Act.

This requirement applies for all SCAs unless the activities are exempt under the RPI Act's exemption criteria.