

Question on Notice

No. 1392

Asked on Wednesday, 17 October 2018

MRS J STUCKEY ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to dredging of the Currumbin Creek Estuary—

Will the Minister advise for the past five financial years (2013-2018) (a) the State Government's financial commitment reported by year (b) the steps needed to modify the designated dredge area and (c) the State Government's involvement in assessing water quality in Currumbin Creek?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

(a) This matter falls under the Minister for Transport and Main Roads' portfolio. I refer the Member to the relevant Minister.

(b) If the designated dredge area of an environmental authority was to be modified, the environmental authority holder may be required to apply for various approvals.

These approvals could include:

- Application for Operational Works – Tidal Works (if creation of navigational channel is required);
- Material Change of Use (new capital dredging); and
- Amendment to the Environmental Authority or a new Environmental Authority that identifies the area of the modified dredging activity.

(c) The Department of Environment and Science (the department) undertakes water quality assessment of Currumbin Creek under the annual freshwater, estuarine and marine monitoring programs, in partnership with Healthy Land and Water. The results of the monitoring programs underpin the assessment of waterway's environmental condition, reported through the Healthy Land and Water Annual Report Card. The environmental condition of the Tallebudgera-Currumbin catchment, which includes Currumbin Creek, has maintained a B rating under the Annual Report Card assessment over the past four years.

The department is updating water quality standards under environmental legislation for all south east Queensland waterways. When complete in 2019, this will inform approvals and compliance assessments for water quality.