

Question on Notice

No. 1508

Asked on Tuesday, 30 October 2018

MR D CRISAFULLI 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 the Minister's proclamation that ex-HMAS Tobruk was scuttled successfully—

Will the Minister advise whether a requirement that the scuttled ship lay in an upright position was a condition of the contract?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

The Queensland Government has achieved the aim of preparing and scuttling ex-HMAS *Tobruk* in Queensland waters and repurposing the ship into a world class dive site. Recent independent dive assessments confirm this and there is a high level of interest within the dive community to come and see this wreck.

Clearly this is a highly successful project that will provide economic and environmental benefits for the wide bay region for many years to come. The ex-HMAS *Tobruk* dive site is expected to create 20 to 30 jobs in the region, with the direct and indirect economic impact to be approximately \$1.7 million per annum for the region.

The Services Contract for Ship Preparation, Towage and Scuttling Services for the ex-HMAS *Tobruk* Dive Site contained many clauses regarding the detailed preparation, towage and scuttling works required to achieve a successful dive site.

I am unable to provide details of the contract because it refers to the business affairs of the contractor and contains commercially sensitive information.

All available advice, including comments from dive operators, confirm the ex-HMAS *Tobruk* will be a world-class dive site and a significant tourism drawcard for the region. The site has received energetic support from local Mayors, dive operators, and the local tourism industry. The only negative commentary is coming from the Liberal National Party (LNP). By consistently talking down the tourism potential of the site, the LNP are putting at risk the employment and broader economic opportunities it presents for the region.