

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1512

asked on Tuesday, 30 October 2018

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the drought continuing to affect a large proportion of Callide and regional Queensland in general—

Will the Minister provide immediate drought assistance to those graziers feeding their stock on roadsides by removing State Government charges?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government appreciates that the current drought conditions are continuing to affect graziers throughout rural and regional Queensland.

Permits for roadside grazing are issued by local governments and are subject to fees prescribed under the *Stock Route Management Act 2002* and the *Stock Route Management Regulation 2003*.

The *Stock Route Management Regulation* does not provide an opportunity to waive fees. Removing the requirement to pay fees would have revenue implications for local governments undertaking their stock route network responsibilities, as local governments collect these fees and retain half to help cover the cost of administering and maintaining the stock route network.

Any proposal to remove the requirement to pay stock route fees would need to involve consultation with relevant stakeholders, including the Local Government Association of Queensland.

The government continues to support local governments in their role as the day-to-day managers of the stock route network.

The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy administers a capital works program which provides funds to local governments, to upgrade and maintain water facility assets associated with the stock route network.

Since 2014, \$800,000 per annum has been allocated and expended on capital works projects which support the stock route network.

Expressions of interest for the 2019–20 stock route network capital works program will be called for and assessed by the department over coming months.