

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 0639

asked on Thursday, 17 May 2018

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the consultative process will proceed in regard to rewriting the vegetation clearing codes?

ANSWER:

The aim of the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 was to implement election commitments and reinstate a more sustainable vegetation management framework for Queensland.

Throughout 2015, the then Department of Natural Resources and Mines held discussions with key stakeholders—including the Queensland Farmers' Federation, AgForce, Canegrowers, WWF, The Wilderness Society and the Environmental Defenders Office—on reinstating vegetation management laws which had been removed from the framework by the Newman government in 2013.

In late 2015, the Deputy Premier engaged in extensive stakeholder consultation on the government's plans to reinstate vegetation protections.

The Bill went through a full committee hearing process where submissions were canvassed from a wide range of stakeholders. Approximately 13,880 written submissions were received, and the committee heard from 130 witnesses in two hearings in Brisbane and six hearings in regional centres. Over 13,000 of the written submissions supported the Bill and/or wanted even greater protection to vegetation.

In relation to the review of the assessable development codes, the findings of the Cardno Chenoweth report were presented to key stakeholders on 30 November 2015. Stakeholders included AgForce, WWF, the Queensland Farmers' Federation, Timber Queensland, Private Forestry Services Queensland, The Wilderness Society, Queensland Regional Groups Collective and the Environmental Defenders Office. Nine stakeholders' submissions were received as part of this review.

Consultation will be undertaken by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy as part of the review of accepted development codes throughout 2018—a commitment I made when introducing the Amendment Bill into Parliament in March.