

Question on Notice

No. 1888

Asked on Wednesday, 27 November 2019

MR M HART 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 Question on Notice No. 1392 of 2018 asked on 17 October 2018 and the dredging of the Currumbin Creek estuary—

Will the Minister advise (a) what date the current approvals were sought and approved and (b) whether the Gold Coast City Council has ever applied to alter the dredging approvals?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

To undertake dredging activities in the Currumbin Creek estuary, a valid Development Approval (DA) and a valid Environmental Authority (EA) are required.

DAs are administered by the relevant planning authority under the *Planning Act 2016*. In this case the Council of the City of Gold Coast is the assessment manager and the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDMIP) is a concurrence agency. As DAs fall under the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, I refer the Member to the relevant Minister.

In this case DES is the administering authority for the EA under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

With regards to the EA applications, I am advised that:

An application was made to the then Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) (now DES) on 31 July 2014, for an EA to dredge areas of the Gold Coast, including parts of Currumbin Creek. The EA was issued by EHP on 24 April 2015. The Gold Coast Waterways Authority and the Council of the City of Gold Coast are the EA holders.

The EA holders made a later application to DES on 24 May 2019, to amend the EA to reflect changes made to the DA conditions, which now refer to the revised Gold Coast Waterways Sand Management Plan incorporating an Environmental Management Framework. This was approved by DES on 20 June 2019.