

Question on Notice

No. 347

Asked on 27 March 2019

MR S STEWART ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the recent monsoon floods in North Queensland and those affected by this devastating event—

Will the Minister advise what assistance was offered by the Palaszczuk Government in way of land rents and how many landholders will benefit from this assistance?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

As a consequence of the recent severe monsoon event in North Queensland, affected Land Act leaseholders in 19 local government areas have had their leasehold rent payments automatically deferred from 1 March 2019 until 30 November 2019. Payment will now be due on 1 December 2019. The local government areas are Burdekin Shire Council, Carpentaria Shire Council, Cook Shire Council, Charters Towers Regional Council, Cloncurry Shire Council, Douglas Shire Council, Flinders Shire Council, Hinchinbrook Shire Council, McKinlay Shire Council, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, Richmond Shire Council, Townsville City Council, Winton Shire Council, Burke Shire Council, Croydon Shire Council, Etheridge Shire Council, Torres Shire Council and Torres Strait Island Regional Council and Whitsunday Regional Council

No penalty interest will accrue on any lease that has the benefit of this deferral. The deferral applies to approximately 4 200 leases and more than \$5 million worth of land rent that would be due and payable has been deferred for up to nine months.

The deferral applies to all categories of leases issued under the *Land Act 1994* in the local government areas, which includes community, charitable, residential, business and primary production.

If a leaseholder is still suffering hardship beyond 1 December 2019 due to the North Queensland monsoon, he or she may apply for a further extension to pay the rent. Applications for an extension may be made online at www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/state/rents/deferring/.