

Question on Notice

No. 956

Asked on Wednesday 12 June 2019

MR E SORENSEN ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise when the government will increase leases for businesses at the Urangan Boat Harbour from 5 years to 20 years, so they can (a) pursue long term business investments and (b) have security for their investments?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Hervey Bay for the question.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) owns and manages the Urangan State Boat Harbour, including the management of leases for the businesses located within the Harbour.

TMR is supportive of tenants investing in their leased area to bring more people to the harbour, generate more jobs and increase economic activity for local businesses. However, tenant's expectations must be managed to ensure they understand that leases are not automatically renewed upon expiry.

To progress a lease renewal request, TMR requires specific information from the tenants to satisfy the relevant provisions of the *Queensland Government Land Transaction Policy*, administered by the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. The information TMR requires includes the tenant's business plan and details of future investment planned. TMR seeks the information to consider whether the level of capital investment into the leased area warrants the granting of a long-term lease, which locks down a public asset in the harbour for a substantial term.

The focus for TMR is to balance the provision of opportunities for investment in the harbour with secure employment opportunities, while meeting community expectations on the issuing of long-term exclusive tenure over this strategic public asset.

The tenants are encouraged to contact TMR directly to discuss their specific lease and renewal proposals, enabling TMR to provide the tenants with clarity around the relevant policies and processes to ensure an outcome that is beneficial for both parties.