

Question on Notice

No. 1132

Asked on Tuesday, 1 December 2020

MR S ANDREW ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the situation with Keswick Island including the new Chinese ownership, the ongoing destruction of the Northern Bay turtle habitat, and that the new lease holders have suffered no fines or penalties for the disruption of this area—

Will the Minister advise what is the commercial intention concerning the long term lease of Keswick Island?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

Since becoming aware of a number of environmental concerns in January 2020, the Department of Environment and Science has been to Keswick Island on a number of occasions to investigate. The department did not observe any evidence of turtle nests, damage to turtle nests or permanent impacts to habitat.

Lease conditions on Keswick Island, including compliance with any associated lease conditions, are administered by the Department of Resources. I refer the Member to the Minister for Resources regarding lease matters.