

Question on Notice

No. 166

Asked on Tuesday, 18 February 2020

DR C ROWAN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide an update on the progression of the Labor Government's proposed First Nations Cultural Centre, including what specific consultation has taken place to date, and also what proposed geographical locations are being considered?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

As part of the 2019–20 Budget, the Queensland Government committed \$2 million over two years towards an options assessment to establish a First Nations Cultural Centre in Brisbane to showcase First Nations Cultures from across Queensland.

While the tourism possibilities of such a Centre would be significant, this commitment goes deeper than that. It is another step towards truth-telling in our relationship with First Nations peoples. The Arts has a unique ability to tell the stories of the past in a way that engages the entire community in honest discussion.

The importance of this task is reflected in the Government's intention to locate a First Nations Cultural Centre – the first of its kind in Queensland – in a suitable prominent location in the State's capital. This demonstrates its level of significance, similar to other state cultural institutions such as Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Queensland Museum and the State Library.

Providing the opportunity to tell the story of First Nations peoples in our state's capital will be a defining feature of a First Nations Cultural Centre.

The options generation and assessment process has commenced with small to large scale options being considered as well as the role, function and identification of an appropriate location.

Communication, consultation and engagement with First Nations peoples from the south east Queensland region and Indigenous arts and cultural stakeholders across Queensland is underway and will continue as a priority throughout the development of the options assessment.