QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 835

asked on Tuesday, 11 August 2020

MR D PURDIE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

With reference to land valuations—

Will the Minister advise (a) the number of objections lodged against statutory land valuations in 2019-20 annual valuation programs, (b) the internal and external legal costs incurred by the State Valuation Service in defending statutory valuations made over 2019-20 and budgeted for 2020-21 (reported separately) and (c) whether there are any plans to recalculate or postpone the latest valuations determinations given the impact COVID-19 on Queensland?

ANSWER:

(a) There were 2427 properly made objections lodged against the 2020 (1 October 2019 date of valuation) annual valuation. A properly made objection is one that meets the requirements of the *Land Valuation Act 2010* and the number provided excludes objections on maintenance valuations.

(b) Internal legal costs include costs incurred by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy for salaries and on costs for lawyers dealing with valuation matters. Internal legal costs for 2019–20 were $340,524. External legal costs include professional contractors i.e. expert witnesses—town planners, quantity surveyors etc. External costs also include legal fees (such as legal disbursements, barristers' fees, solicitors' fees and Crown Law); external costs for 2019–20 were $1,165,040. Budgeted external legal costs for 2020–21 is $576,000. Budgeted internal legal costs for 2020–21 is $358,763.

(c) The existing valuations will not be recalculated as they have a date of valuation as at 1 October 2019 or prior, depending on the last time the local authority was valued. These valuations have already been issued and form part of the valuation roll. These dates of valuation are all pre-pandemic and therefore it is not appropriate to reflect any impact of COVID-19.

The Valuer-General is currently determining the 2021 valuation program. The program decision follows consideration of market survey reports of 62 local governments. The Valuer-General will also consider the results of consultation with the local government for the area, and appropriate local groups and industry groups in accordance with the Land Valuation Act. The 2021 annual valuation program will be issued on or before 31 March 2021 with a date of valuation of 1 October 2020. This valuation will reflect any impact of COVID-19.