

Question on Notice

No. 110

Asked on Thursday, 25 February 2021

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the Department of Environment and Science intends to apply the Reef Regulations to the Solar Farm proposed for Smoky Creek, in the Fitzroy catchment, when their projected runoff will contain chemicals more damaging to the Great Barrier Reef than sediment?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

Development approvals for solar farms do not fall within the Department of Environment and Science's jurisdiction and in Queensland are typically assessed and regulated by local government. In most cases the local government is the assessment manager for the approval. Additionally, under section 440ZG of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, the release of contaminants to waterways from industrial sites is already regulated and the administration of this section is devolved to local government.

The Reef Regulations do not contain additional requirements related to run-off from solar farms.

As the matter falls within the jurisdiction of local government, it is suggested that the Member contacts the Banana Shire Council, as the relevant local government authority for the proposed Smoky Creek Solar Farm project and any related controls and conditions regarding run-off that would be associated with such an approval.