

Question on Notice

No. 1167

Asked on Tuesday, 12 October 2021

MS S BOLTON 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 provide details on the yet to be formed Independent Environmental Authority, when it will be operational, and who will have oversight of it?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Queensland Government has committed to investigating and consulting on the establishment of an independent Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Queensland. This investigation is currently underway and will culminate in the development of a Business Case to inform the Queensland Government's decision as to whether an independent EPA should be established, and if so, in what form.

The Business Case will consider best practice regulation, the benefits of regulatory independence, the experience of other jurisdictions including governance and oversight arrangements for independent regulators, detailed financial modelling, and the outcomes of stakeholder and community consultation.

Consultation supporting a broad outreach is commencing later this year so everyone with an interest has an opportunity to have their say about the future arrangements for environmental protection in Queensland.

The Business Case is scheduled to be completed in the first half of 2022. A decision regarding the potential establishment of an EPA will follow Government consideration of the Business Case.