

Question on Notice

No. 1271

Asked on Tuesday, 26 October 2021

MR L MILLAR 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 what studies were made of the environmental impact of the expansion of the Mahalo Gas Project on the water supply of the affected properties and the Woorabinda township and what those studies showed?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

On 4 June 2020, the Department of Environment and Science approved an amendment to an existing environmental authority, that relates to the Mahalo Development Area, to add two petroleum leases.

The environmental authority amendment application was supported by a Water Assessment Report and was considered as part of assessing the application. The assessment of the application determined that the existing conditions would satisfactorily manage effects on groundwater.

The water assessment report was also supported by project specific predications of groundwater impacts. Those predictions were provided by the independent Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment, in response to a request from the proponent.

On 19 October 2021, the Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment released the consultation draft of the 2021 Underground Water Impact Report. The Report includes cumulative groundwater impacts from the Mahalo project including identification of obligations for resource tenure holders to undertake baseline and bore assessments of landholder water bores and to make good any impacts. A copy of the Report is available at <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/resources/landholders/csg/surat-cma/uwir>.