

Question on Notice

No. 76

Asked on 24 February 2021

MR S BENNETT asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (HON S MILES) –

QUESTION:

With reference to Queensland's economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic and barriers to productivity such as the disparity between farmland values and local government rate

Will the Deputy Premier mandate Local Governments' compliance with the principles set out in the State Government's 'Guideline on Equity and Fairness in Rating for Queensland Local Governments'?

ANSWER:

The *Guideline on equity and fairness in rating for Queensland local governments* (the Rating Guideline) outlines principles on revenue-raising to assist local governments to develop a fair and equitable rating regime. The principles are for local governments to consider when making their rating decisions.

Rating Guideline restrict local governments' ability to set rates and charges according to local circumstances. The autonomy of local governments to set rates and charges according to local needs and their communities' expectations is fundamental to the Queensland local government system. This is especially so as communities begin to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. It remains the government's policy to not intervene in those local government decisions.