

**Question on Notice**

**No. 775**

**Asked on 15 June 2021**

**DR M ROBINSON** ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the Minister's commitment dated 4 September 2020 to call for expressions of interest for a new Moreton Island Barge—

Will the Minister advise (a) when the expressions of interest closed, (b) the number of expressions of interest received and (c) any next steps including dates for any milestones for the establishment of the new service?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Oodgeroo for the question.

An Expression of Interest (EOI) process for a Moreton Island (Mulgumpin) Barge Development Opportunity was released to market on 14 September 2020. The EOI closed on 6 October 2020. The EOI process was successful in identifying interest in the project, however the number of submissions remains confidential as part of an ongoing procurement process.

An Invitation to Offer was released to shortlisted proponents identified through the EOI process. The submission period closed in April 2021 and the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has now completed an evaluation of the offers received. TMR has decided to proceed to technical investigations which may include consideration of a vessel traffic management plan and a potential vessel trial in the waterway to assess the appropriateness of the proposed barge operation.

The timeframe for this next stage of the process will depend on the complexity of issues raised during these investigations.