

Question on Notice

No. 793

Asked on Wednesday 16 June 2021

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

QUESTION:

With reference to a Coordinated Project—

Will the Deputy Premier advise (a) what actions are available to the Coordinator General where a proponent changes the project scope without seeking approval through a Request for Project Change and (b) what penalties or otherwise is the project liable for?

ANSWER:

- (a) Part 4, Division 3A of the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (the Act) contains provisions that operate after the Coordinator-General has issued an evaluation report for a project. These provisions allow the Coordinator-General to consider changes to a declared coordinated project. However, the Act operates so that evaluation reports lapse (except to the extent they contain imposed conditions) as relevant approvals through other legislation are obtained for the project (for example, the *Planning Act 2016* or the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*). It is not always necessary for the proponent to seek a project change through the Coordinator-General. Each case is to be assessed on its own facts and circumstances.
- (b) If a project change cannot be addressed through the subsequent approvals process, the Coordinator-General may initiate a project change assessment on her own initiative for which the court may impose a maximum penalty of 1,665 penalty units if the proponent fails to make a request for change.