

Question on Notice

No. 1066

Asked on 14 October 2022

MR A PERRETT ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the lease by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Cape York Biosecurity facility in Coen— Will the Minister advise (a) when did the lease commence, (b) how long was the lease for, (c) when did it/will it expire, (d) was the lease broken, (e) to whom will the lease be handed over and (f) given current serious biosecurity threats and that the lease was due to expire what alternative arrangements have been identified to ensure continuity of the facility?

ANSWER:

The Cape York Biosecurity Centre (the Centre) at Coen was established in 1997. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) facility is situated on a parcel of unallocated State land.

There is no lease arrangement in place.

The Cape York United Number One Native Title claim, which includes the land on which the Centre is located, is a separate process from the review of the Centre.

DAF is working with traditional owners through the claim process.

As part of the review process of the Centre, Biosecurity Queensland has commenced consultations with a broad range of stakeholders.

That process is ongoing and will be vital in framing strategy development and future investment in biosecurity in Far North Queensland.