

Question on Notice

No. 1286

Asked on Tuesday, 8 November 2022

MR R KATTER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland Government's purchase of the State's most northerly cattle property, Bramwell Station, which includes a roadhouse and tourist park—

Will the Minister advise (a) what is the future of the Bramwell Station Junction Roadhouse and Bramwell Station Tourist Park and (b) if the Queensland Government plans to continue offering these important services, when will it commence a competitive tender process to secure the new operators?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

Bramwell and Richardson Stations, including the Junction Roadhouse and Bramwell Station Tourist Park were purchased by the Queensland Government at auction in August 2021 because of the significant natural and cultural values of the leases including the headwaters of the Olive River that flows into the Great Barrier Reef lagoon.

The Queensland Government has no intention of closing these businesses.

In the future, the Department of Environment and Science will negotiate with Traditional Owners for the properties on final tenure, including Aboriginal freehold and protected area under the auspice and parameters of the highly successful Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Program.

It is recognised the Bramwell Junction Roadhouse and Bramwell Station Tourist Park provide essential services to locals and travellers in the area. The Bramwell Tourist Park and Junction Roadhouse will be managed under sublease arrangements, with the Department of Environment and Science retaining ownership of the head lease until final tenure is resolved.

To avoid the risk of disruptions to fuel supply and vital services for the region, the department requested subleasing proposals from known interested parties.

An announcement about management arrangements of the Tourist Park and Roadhouse will be made when the subleasing process is finalised.