

## Question on Notice

No. 1449

Asked on 1 December 2022

**MR S KNUTH** asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure (HON S MILES) –

### QUESTION:

With reference to State Planning Code 23 for Wind Farms defining a 'sensitive site' within 1.5km of a proposed wind farm as places such as child-care centre, detention facility, hotel or tourist park—

Will the Deputy Premier advise (a) why National Parks and even World Heritage Areas are not defined as a 'sensitive site' under the Planning Code and (b) with all the strict controls in place in regards to activities adjacent to or on National Parks and Wet Tropics World Heritage Areas, why wind farms such as Chalumbin are exempt and allowed to be constructed next to Wet Tropic World Heritage Areas?

### ANSWER:

- (a) National Parks and World Heritage Areas are managed under different pieces of legislation (state and federal). For example, World Heritage Areas, which are matters of national environmental significance are assessed under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
- (b) Wind farm developments adjacent to national parks or the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area are required to meet all relevant planning requirements. The assessment of Chalumbin Wind Farm was undertaken in accordance with the applicable assessment benchmarks, being State Development Assessment Provisions State Code 23 Wind Farm Development and State Code 16 Native Vegetation Clearing. Assessment against these codes ensures that the impacts of the proposed wind farm development are comprehensively assessed and addressed. This includes having regard to impacts on ecology, acoustics, transport and visual amenity both within and external to the site.

As part of the assessment of any wind farm development application, advice is sought from relevant agencies such as the Wet Tropics Management Authority and the relevant local government.

I have been advised that no access tracks, turbines or associated clearing will occur within 600 metres of the boundary to the adjacent Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.