

Question on Notice

No. 226

Asked on Thursday, 17 March 2022

MR S O'CONNOR 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 Local Government Waste Management Reforms Regulatory Impact Statement released for public consultation between 13 December 2019 and 10 February 2020—

Will the Minister provide details on (a) whether a decision been made on section 7 of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Regulation 2011 (Qld) and chapter 5A of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008 (Qld), (b) if that decision has been made, which option (1 or 2) was taken to address stakeholder concerns, (c) how many submissions were made to the RIS consultation, (d) how many submissions were in favour of option 1 and how many were in favour of option 2 and (e) if no decision has been made, (i) why has this been delayed for more than 2 years and (ii) when does the Minister expect this to be finalised?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

On 13 December 2019, the Department of Environment and Science released the Local Government Waste Management Reforms Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement for public comment.

The document provided two options for resolving the issues with the local government administration of waste management activities, stating a preferred approach:

- Option 1 proposed to maintain the status quo; and
- Option 2 (the preferred option) proposed to amend the State provisions to restrict the collection of waste by local governments to domestic premises and appropriate commercial premises, as well as removing the ability for local governments to make local laws that replace the State provisions.

16 submissions were received during the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS). Submissions expressed mixed views, half were in support of Option 1, seven were in support of Option 2, and one submission did not state a clear preference. The department has undertaken further targeted consultation with key stakeholders and additional issues have been raised.

As the Waste Reduction and Recycling Regulation 2011 is due to expire on 1 September 2022, and with no clear support for the options presented in the RIS, the department is instead reviewing the local government administration of waste management activities in section 7 of the Regulation holistically as part of this sunset review.

The review of the Regulation is well-advanced and is anticipated to be completed within statutory timeframes.