

Question on Notice

No. 319

Asked on Wednesday, 30 March 2022

MR S KNUTH 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 reductions in carbon emissions being negated by the extensive removal of carbon sinks in the form of bushland, leading to a net zero result for windfarm projects along the western main transmission line of Queensland—

Will the Minister advise why there is government support for renewable energy projects such as the Chalumbin Wind Farm project which require removal of large areas of bushland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government supports renewable energy developments as a critical part of the effort to reduce emissions and the price of energy.

The assessment of wind farms in Queensland falls under the *Planning Act 2016*. The development assessment framework under the Planning Act sees the State Assessment and Referral Agency within the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning being responsible for assessing proposed wind farms against the State Development Assessment Provisions including, State Code 23: Wind farm development and State Code 16: Native vegetation clearing.

The purpose of the State Codes is to protect individuals, communities, and the environment from adverse impacts from the construction, operations and decommissioning of wind farms. The State Codes provide the performance outcomes wind farm developments must meet to obtain approval. In assessing wind farms under the State Codes, the State Assessment and Referral Agency may seek technical advice from other Queensland Government agencies, including the Department of Environment and Science.