

Question on Notice
No. 488-2022
Asked on Tuesday, 24 May 2022
Answer Due: Thursday, 23 June 2022

488 **MR LANGBROEK** ASKED MINISTER FOR SENIORS AND DISABILITY SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PARTNERSHIPS (HON C CRAWFORD)

With reference to bones found on the Deebing Springs housing development site—

Will the Minister advise (a) what steps the Minister or the department have taken to establish the status of bones reportedly found at the site of a proposed residential development at Deebing Heights, (b) what, if any, action has the Minister or the department taken to preserve these bones and the location in which they were found and (c) has the Minister or the department sought advice from the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef as to what action should be taken in relation to the residential development site?

Answer:

(a) The Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships first became aware of the discovery of alleged human skeletal remains at the residential development site at Deebing Heights following the publication of articles in the Ipswich Tribune on 30 March 2022 and 6 April 2022.

On 6 April 2022, officers from my department contacted the residential developer to determine the location of the discovery and whether they had been involved with the reported removal of bones by Professor David Lambert of Griffith University.

There are legislative requirements associated with the alleged discovery of human skeletal remains. Since 28 April 2022, my department has worked closely with the Queensland Police Service who has primary carriage of this investigation.

On 12 May 2022, the Queensland Police Service advised my department an investigation of the alleged skeletal remains had been conducted by crime scene examiners and confirmed that these bones were not human.

(b) Given the findings of this investigation, no further action is required of myself or the department in relation to this matter.

(c) Similarly, there is no requirement to obtain advice from the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef on the proposed development of this site.