

Question on Notice

No. 646

Asked on 22 June 2022

MR S MINNIKIN ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise (a) if spoil removed from the Cross River Rail site was tested for per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and (b) if so, the maximum levels detected to date and the dates of these detections?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Chatsworth for the question.

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) has been detected in spoil removed from site generated by tunnelling activities. Some contamination has been detected at low levels at worksites associated with the project. These detections are consistent with the findings that the Department of Environment and Science presented in its *Queensland Ambient PFAS Monitoring Program Report 2019–2020*.

More than 1065 soil samples have been tested for PFAS substances, with 322 returning very low-level positive detections. The maximum PFAS detection occurred at Mayne Yard, with a recorded value of 0.0512mg/kg for perfluorooctane sulfonate/perfluorohexanesulfonic acid, with a test date of 29 August 2021. This maximum value is low when compared to the *PFAS National Environmental Management Plan Version 2.0 – January 2020* soil screening criteria of 20mg/kg for commercial/industrial land uses.

The majority of non-tunnel spoil generated by the project, including spoil containing levels of PFAS, has been beneficially reused within the project area. Whether reused within the project area or removed from site, including spoil containing levels of PFAS, all spoil has been managed in accordance with the requirements of the Coordinator General's imposed conditions, the *Environment Protection Act 1994* and the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*.