

Question on Notice

No. 991

Asked on Wednesday, 12 October 2022

MR A PERRETT 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 confidentiality agreements required to view draft changes to the Environment Protection Act—

Will the Minister advise who the stakeholders are that have signed confidentiality deeds?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

Consultation on the Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 occurred over more than 12 months from August 2021. This included a consultation paper which was circulated to targeted stakeholders in October 2021, followed by the opportunity to review exposure drafts of the Bill from April 2022.

As the proposals in the exposure draft Bill had not yet gone through a full Cabinet process, there was an expectation of confidentiality. The Queensland Parliament Factsheet titled ‘The Principles of Cabinet’ explains the confidentiality requirements that the Department of Environment and Science followed, which includes a requirement that ‘ongoing confidentiality of Cabinet and related records shall be maintained’. That requirement was balanced with the Department’s desire to consult in good faith with key stakeholders on the draft Bill. The following stakeholders signed a confidentiality deed prior to being provided with an exposure draft of the Bill:

- Queensland Resources Council
- Lock the Gate Alliance
- Association of Mining and Exploration Companies
- Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association
- Australian Pacific Liquefied Natural Gas
- Queensland Water Directorate
- Local Government Association of Queensland
- Environmental Defenders Office
- Queensland Conservation Council
- Cement Concrete and Aggregates Australia
- Australian Contaminated Land Consultants Association
- AgForce
- Environmental Earth Sciences International
- Australian Prawn Farmers Association
- JBS&G Consultancy
- Leanne Bowie Lawyers
- Glencore Coal Assets Australia
- Waste Recycling Industry Queensland
- Australian Barramundi Farmers Association