

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 1006**

**Asked on Tuesday, 12 September 2023**

**MR S BENNETT** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (HON L LINARD)—

### **QUESTION:**

With reference to the Woodgate Beach Sand Nourishment program that was granted funding from QRA under the NQNDMP in July 2022—

Will the Minister explain (a) why the Department of Environment revoked approval of the program in March 2023, (b) why the department is requiring sand to be trucked in from the Port of Bundaberg or Hervey Bay and not replenished from already shifted sand at Theodolite Creek and (c) why the BRC is yet to receive a response from the department after they resubmitted a Marine Parks Permit to DES almost 14 weeks ago?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for the question, noting that it contains a number of factual inaccuracies.

- (a) Approval for the project was not revoked by the Department of Environment and Science (the department).
- (b) The department is not requiring sand to be trucked from the Port of Bundaberg or Hervey Bay. The Bundaberg Regional Council (the Council) undertook a comprehensive cost-benefit feasibility study to identify suitable sand sources. This study determined importing sand from outside of the Great Sandy Marine Park was the most viable option for the Council.
- (c) The permit application was received by the department from the Council in July 2023. Assessment of the application was undertaken in accordance with the relevant legislative framework, within associated assessment and statutory Native Title consultation timeframes. The application was approved in September 2023.

The marine parks permit does not prohibit the Council from undertaking works during turtle nesting season. The permit requires the Council to seek approval from the department before carrying out any works during the nesting season to ensure appropriate measures are put in place to minimise any potential impacts on marine turtle nesting.