

Question on Notice

No. 1166

Asked on 10 October 2023

MS A LEAHY asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the approximately 2000 gravel pits that require an ILUA—

Will the Minister advise (a) how many gravel pit inspections have departmental officers conducted and (b) of these inspections, how many have resulted in the issue of a sales permit and (c) how many pits is the department yet to inspect?

ANSWER:

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) has authorised approximately 2000 quarry pits to source state-owned quarry material (mostly gravel) for use by local governments across Queensland via the issue of 49 sales permits under the authority of the *Forestry Act 1959*. Some local governments have over 100 individual quarry pits endorsed on their sales permit.

Approximately 1400 pits endorsed on sales permits held by local governments have been identified as potentially requiring an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) or other valid native title authorisation to allow for continued access beyond the term of the current sales permit. DAF's quarry material sales permits will progressively expire over the next ten years.

The question seeks information on gravel pit inspections undertaken by DAF and how many have resulted in the issuance of a sales permit. DAF undertakes gravel pit inspections as needed for the issuing and renewal of sales permits, or when performing compliance activities. The issuing or renewal of a sales permit is not predicated on a gravel pit inspection being first performed. Rather, DAF undertakes a range of planning and site assessment activities, such as native title assessments, prior to determining the issue or renewal of a quarry sales permit.

Nine sales permits held by local governments with a total of 335 endorsed quarry pits were originally scheduled to expire between June 2022 and 30 September 2023. Eight of these sales permits have been renewed or regranting by DAF following pre-planning and site assessment activities, with the ninth sales permit no longer required by the relevant local government. Under these eight sales permits, the relevant local governments identified that 222 quarry pits were needed to supply state-owned quarry material moving forward. To date, DAF has endorsed 187 of these required quarry pits on the renewed sales permits, with 35 quarry pits unable to be endorsed at this stage whilst additional options are being explored.

DAF is working with individual local governments that have sales permits expiring late 2023 and 2024 as a matter of priority to understand their state-owned quarry material requirements prior to renewing the sales permits. This involves undertaking on-ground and other assessments, including exploring possible alternative sites, as well as identifying ILUA or other valid native title authorisation requirements and options.

Some local governments already have ILUAs in place which allow for the use of quarry pits within a determined area. Work is being prioritised based on expiration dates of existing sales

permits. Every quarry pit has unique circumstances and future requirements and is assessed individually in collaboration with the relevant local government.