

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No.1336

asked on Wednesday, 25 October 2023

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**MR L MILLAR** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR RESOURCES (HON S STEWART)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise (a) how many abandoned small claims the department is managing on the Central Queensland Gemfields, (b) how much the department is holding in rehabilitation bond monies attached to those claims and (c) whether this is sufficient to fund the required rehabilitation works?

ANSWER:

(a) As of 23 November 2023, there were 372 mining claims on the Central Queensland Gemfields recorded as non-current and that may not have complied with their mandatory obligations to remediate the mining claim.

(b) 'Rehabilitation bond monies' is not a term defined by relevant statutes.

The Department of Resources holds \$245,700.31 as security under the Mineral Resources Act against non-current mining claims on the Central Queensland Gemfields. This amount does not include any financial provisioning (surety amounts) for rehabilitation works that may also be held by Queensland Treasury on behalf of the Department of Environment and Science.

(c) The amount of security held by the department is unlikely to be sufficient to fund the clean-up of mining claims that have not complied with the mandatory requirements under the mining claim. This is because the costs outlined in the self-assessment calculator do not reflect the rise in costs of goods and services since 2019.

(d) This is why the government is currently consulting on proposals to address these issues and reduce the financial burden on taxpayers to clean-up abandoned mining claims.