

Question on Notice
No. 1485
Asked on Thursday, 18 November 2023

MR S O'CONNOR ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI)

With reference to the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project—

Will the Minister advise (a) how many properties have been acquired by the State Government as part of this project, (b) how much funding the State Government has allocated or expended to acquire these properties and (c) how many properties are yet to be acquired by the State Government for this project?

ANSWER

Queensland Hydro's primary focus is on establishing access to land for technical investigations and studies at the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project site. Investigation activity does not require acquisition of land. Instead, Queensland Hydro is entering into access agreements with relevant landholders to support investigation activity.

The Queensland Government acknowledges the highly sensitive nature of land acquisition and Queensland Hydro recognises that the project is causing a level of uncertainty and concern for some landowners. Queensland Hydro has only entered early land acquisition conversations with landowners when requested by those landholders.

In response to the Member's question, I can advise the following:

- a) In consideration of individual land holders right to privacy in relation to their negotiations with the State, release of this information has the potential to allow for the identification of members of the community who would otherwise have the right to expect both peaceful enjoyment of the property following their decision, and that their negotiation remain confidential. It would therefore be inconsistent with those rights and arrangements entered into, to release this data.
- b) Acquisition values are a private, confidential matter between landholders and Queensland Hydro and release of this data would compromise that confidentiality.
- c) The total number of properties to be acquired for the project will be dependent on the final project design, which is currently under development.