

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 523

asked on Tuesday, 9 May 2023

MR S KNUTH ASKED THE MINISTER FOR RESOURCES (HON S STEWART)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Valuer General releasing new valuations across 24 local government areas including the Tablelands and Hinchinbrook shire, with some of the highest rises experienced on larger pastoral holdings, with one constituent's small property valuation increasing by 60.9 percent this time, and an overall of 141 percent since the 2019 valuations—

Will the Minister make sure Local Governments only increase rates commensurate with their running costs and, similarly to what they request of mum and dad investors in the housing market - freeze rents on leasehold land with farmers and graziers?

ANSWER:

As the Minister for Resources, I have approved a 10 per cent cap on the increase in state rental charges for primary and agricultural leases issued under the *Land Act 1994* to provide protection against large rental increases.

Local governments determine rates themselves based on the services they intend to provide to the community and have wide-ranging powers to manage rates.

Local governments have had access to land valuation data since February 2023 and have the flexibility to choose to adjust rates to account for changes in property values.

The Department of Resources is responsible for land valuations, which are conducted by the Valuer-General who is required to exercise independent judgement and is not subject to direction from anyone else.