

Question on Notice

No. 742

Asked on Tuesday, 13 June 2023

MS S BOLTON 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 government supporting the recommendations of the Independent Review of Environmental Regulator’s Powers to incorporate health and environmental harms external to the permit site, as well the ability to amend Environmental Authorities—

Will the Minister advise if the government will prioritise these legislative amendments to address the trauma being experienced by our communities, and provide a timeline for this?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Queensland Government released its response to the recommendations of the Independent Review into the adequacy of powers and penalties available under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* on 26 May 2023.

The Independent Review recommended that sections 8 and 9 of the Act should be amended to include the concept of “human health, safety and wellbeing” in the definitions of environment and environmental value. The Government response supports this recommendation.

It is intended that a detailed public consultation paper will be released in the second half of 2023, followed by the development of the necessary amendments to legislation.