

Question on Notice

No. 790

Asked on Wednesday, 14 June 2023

MR S O'CONNOR ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (HON L LINARD)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister confirm (a) if construction work has started on the Eastern Kuku Yalanjiwarra Culture and Tourism Hub development and (b) if not, when it is expected to and what the current expected completion date is?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Department of Environment and Science has been working closely with Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation (Jabalbina), the registered Native Title Body representing the traditional owners of the Daintree rainforest, to deliver the \$4.84 million Eastern Kuku Yalanjiwarra Culture and Tourism Hub. Jointly funded through the Australian and Queensland governments, the Hub will make a major contribution to presenting the cultural heritage of both the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and the Great Barrier Reef.

Planning for the design and building of the centre is underway. Given the location of the project within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, the Native Title determination and the importance of the Daintree to Queensland's tourism industry, it is imperative this project is developed and delivered with all relevant considerations explored.

Therefore, extensive consultation has been undertaken with the traditional owners, through Jabalbina, the local tourism industry and representative associations, local councils and the wider community prior to any development application being finalised and submitted. The project has recently received its final development approval in May 2023. The department is now working with Jabalbina to progress next steps including timing for final design and procurement which will inform the construction commencement date. An updated completion date will be determined in the near future.