

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 869

asked on Friday, 16 June 2023

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**MR T SMITH** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR RESOURCES (HON S STEWART)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise which local council areas are currently able to access state land rent deferrals due to drought or natural disaster?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government supports and assists landholders impacted by natural disasters and helps them recover by deferring their land rent payments.

Widespread rainfall over consecutive years has meant that long-standing drought declarations have been lifted across large parts of Queensland. Only the shire council areas of Diamantina and Bulloo remain drought declared. Primary production leaseholders in these two shires will continue to automatically have their land rents deferred for the 2023–24 financial year. In those shires where drought declarations have recently been lifted, leaseholders who have benefitted from land rent deferral during the drought period have until 30 June 2028 to pay their deferred rent. No interest or other charges will apply to these outstanding amounts.

Earlier this year, heavy rainfall and associated flooding resulted in significant damage to property and infrastructure in parts of north west and western Queensland. As a result of the natural disaster declarations in the local government areas of Boulia, Burke, Carpentaria, Cloncurry and Mornington shires and Mount Isa City, I enacted arrangements to defer state land rents for relevant rental categories from 1 April 2023 to 30 September 2023.

Further information on hardship assistance declarations and notices for state land tenures is available on the Queensland Government's website at <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/state/rents/hardship-deferral>.