

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1801

asked on Thursday, 24 October 2019

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**MR D LAST** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the 'land swap' deal between the Queensland Government and Cuesta Coal, Hauxin Energy and/or Wintime Energy—

Will the Minister (a) provide the details of the 'land swap' deal and (b) advise how the government will ensure the construction of a haul road within the Blair Athol State Forest does not impact licensed fossickers in Clermont's largest public prospecting area, McMaster's GPA, and the Clermont businesses that rely on fossickers?

ANSWER:

- (a) As the matter needs to be addressed by the Department of Environment and Science, I refer the member to my colleague, the Honourable Leeanne Enoch MP, Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts.
- (b) Over the past couple of years, the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy has worked with other government and community stakeholders in identifying potential new general permission fossicking areas near Clermont.

Only recently, Flat Diggings fossicking area, located 15 kilometres northwest of Clermont, was opened, adding 181 hectares for fossicking activities.

The opening of the Flat Diggings area increases the overall number of general permission areas near Clermont to 11.

The department will continue to work with interested stakeholders and relevant agencies to manage fossicking and general permission areas in Clermont, minimising the potential impacts of mining projects.