

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 31

asked on Thursday, 15 February 2018

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise on the current status of the dispute between the Hut owners at Elliot River and the traditional owners, north of Bowen?

ANSWER:

Following the Federal Court determination of the Juru people's native title claim on 22 June 2015, the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy has liaised with Kyburra (as the appropriate representative for the Juru people), the Whitsunday Regional Council and hut occupants to determine the future land use of an area at the mouth of the Elliot River, north of Bowen.

The Juru people have a proven, strong and enduring connection to the lands at the Elliot River and, as such, hold exclusive native title rights over these areas.

The Palaszczuk Government supports the aspirations of native title rights holders – in this case the Juru people.

In January 2017, Kyburra provided formal advice affirming that commercial co-existence with the hut occupiers is considered to be unfeasible and that the Juru people seek to have the lands transferred to Kyburra as Aboriginal freehold, unencumbered by huts.

Prior to committing to any course of action, the department will seek renewed confirmation from Kyburra that its views remain unchanged regarding the land at the mouth of the Elliot River.

Once advised, the department will re-engage with all relevant parties to ensure they remain informed of proposed future actions.