

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question On Notice

Tuesday, 13 August 2019

2376. Hon Robin Chappie to the Minister for Regional Development

I refer to recent media articles on Gina Rinehart and her request for 325 gigalitres of water from the Fitzroy River, and I ask:

- (a) has the Minister or department had any discussion with Hancock Agriculture regarding the land swap proposal reported in the media on 26 May 2019;
 - (b) if yes to (a), did Hancock Agriculture detail where it was seeking to swap land;
 - (c) if yes to (b), where is Hancock Agriculture proposing to swap land;
 - (d) what area of freehold land does Hancock Agriculture, or any associated entities, have in the Fitzroy Valley:
 - (i) will the Minister table a map of the land referred to in (d); and
 - (ii) if no to (i), why not;
 - (e) how many hectares of land does Hancock Agriculture, or any associated entities, have as pastoral leases, in the Kimberley:
 - (i) will the Minister table maps of the relevant pastoral leases; and
 - (ii) if no to (i), why not;
 - (f) how much rent was paid by Hancock Agriculture, or any associate entities, for their pastoral leases, in the last financial year:
 - (i) would the Minister table the amounts paid, per lease, over the last financial year;
 - (g) has Hancock Agriculture provided or shown any maps of the proposed land swap to the Minister or department;
 - (h) if yes to (g), will the Minister table the maps;
 - (i) if no to (h), why not;
 - (j) given that Hancock Agriculture is seeking 325 gigalitres of water in order to facilitate the growth of 21,200 hectares of fodder crops, has the Minister or department been provided with details of the proposed area of land, to be transferred from leasehold to freehold, to allow tenure of the developed cropping area and dam:
 - (i) will the Minister table maps of the relevant area(s); and
 - (ii) if no to (i), why not;
 - (k) does the Minister or department know of any plans for future water extraction and/or irrigation at either Mount Krausse and/or Camballin;
 - (l) if yes to (k), will the Minister table any relevant information;
 - (m) if no to (l), why not; and
 - (n) has Hancock Agriculture indicated how it would extract water from the Fitzroy River or its tributaries:
 - (i) if yes to (n), at what location(s); and
 - (ii) if yes to (n), in what manner?
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Answer

- a. The Director General of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development attended a meeting with Hancock Agriculture representatives on 26 May 2019. The Minister has not met with Hancock Agriculture regarding this proposal.
- b. Hancock outlined a proposal whereby land adjacent to the proposed national park scoping area could be incorporated into the Fitzroy National Park in exchange for access to water on their pastoral estate.
- c. Fossil Downs Station.
- d. to i) These questions should be directed to the Minister for Lands for his direct response

j.No.

i. Not applicable.

ii. Not applicable.

k. The existing operations (under water licence with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation) at Liveringa (Camballin) are expected to continue. There have been no submissions made to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development or the Minister for Regional Development detailing further development plans at either of these two locations.

l. Not applicable.

m. Not applicable.

n. There have been no submissions made to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development or the Minister for Regional Development outlining this information. In discussion with the Director General on the 26 May 2019, Hancock verbally outlined that they would not be seeking to install dams or instream diversions but would instead be seeking to pump back water to off stream storages.

i. No further details were provided.

ii. No further details were provided.

