

Question on Notice
No. 264
Asked on 19 June 2012

MR WELLINGTON asked the Premier (MR NEWMAN)—

With reference to land owned by the State Government in the Mary Valley as a result of the failed Traveston Crossing Dam—

Will the government break any of the long-term land lease agreements now in existence, with the intention that the land be placed on the open market for sale?

ANSWER:

In the week of 19 April 2012, the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning announced a hold on the previous government's strategy for the Mary Valley and committed to a new Strategy with a core aim of re-establishing and revitalising communities within the Mary Valley.

A range of issues and opportunities are receiving consideration in order to re-establish business and return the land to enterprises and the community. This includes gaining an understanding of the complexities of the various lease arrangements which apply to the Coordinator-General owned properties in the Mary Valley.

The previous government entered many long-term leases with former landowners and yet other adjoining areas of land leased to the same people are only on shorter term leases, making property management and planning difficult. Around half the property portfolio is affected by long-term leases.

I can confirm that this government is looking at how those long-term leases are being managed, including by the tenants. It is not the intention of the government to break any of these leases, and it is expected that the terms of the leases will be complied with by both parties.

My Government recognises we cannot apply a 'one-size fits all' approach if the new Strategy for the Mary Valley is to be achieved. The new economic development strategy for the Mary Valley is still under development.