



SEATH HOLSWICH MP STATE MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE ESTIMATES HEARING
17th July 2013

GOVERNMENT LAND AND ASSET MANAGEMENT GROUP

Mr HOLSWICH: Deputy Premier, can you please outline what the government is hoping to achieve with the newly established Government Land and Asset Management Group and the importance of that group to Queensland?

Mr SEENEY: I thank the member for Pine Rivers for the question. I spoke about the Government Land and Asset Management unit in my opening statement. It has become known as GLAM, which is a rather strange acronym, I guess.

The Government Land and Asset Management Group has been given a very important task. The government has recognised the need for stronger central management of land and property for a more strategic approach to optimising land and property use and for refocusing underutilised land assets. The rationalisation of assets as recommended by the Queensland Commission of Audit at recommendation 46 was consistent with the current initiatives and policy direction, including the establishment of the Government Land and Asset Management Group within my department. Established with a direct reporting relationship to the Economic Development Board and, therefore, a direct line to me as Minister for Economic Development Queensland, Government Land and Asset Management will play a key role in progressing this agenda.

e is to ensure that real property based assets are identified, assessed and are managed to their full potential for the benefit of the people of Queensland.

The group is currently undertaking a property asset utilisation review, which is investigating a whole-of-

and the private sector, the review will provide its recommendations to the Economic Development Board in November 2013. Government Land and Asset Management aims to facilitate accelerated budget outcomes

systemic issues through the Economic Development Board.

We are taking steps to I billions of dollars, and work out how it can best be utilised. Many parcels of government land could be better utilised for the not-for-profit sector or for social housing organisations to improve social capital and make lives better for Queenslanders. We are progressing moves in that direction. Other parcels could be better used by the private sector to unlock them for development for a range of uses aimed at enhancing economic development in particular communities, in regions and across the state.

In addition, Government Land and Asset Management will continue the implementation of the Mary Valley Economic Development Strategy and lead the delivery of significant and complex transactions on behalf of the Queensland government.

Ultimately, Government Land and Asset Management, through its various activities, will promote systemic and cultural change, fixing the system to avoid being in the same position in the future and thinking differently

undertaken by the previous government. The previous government, on the figures available to me, sold some

\$56 million in surplus land between 2008 and 2012. So over a period of four years, they sold \$56 million worth of surplus land, but there is no evidence that there was any strategy behind the disposal of that land. There is no evidence that there was any thought given as to how that land could be best used for economic development purposes or community development purposes. It appears to me to have been just a straight-out sell for cash.

What we are undertaking is a world of difference. Our strategy is looking at each land asset in each community, in each region and determining what is its best use for the people of Queensland, what would give the people of Queensland the greatest benefit. That may well be in some cases a sale of that piece of land, but it is not the default option, as it was for the previous government. Our approach – the approach that GLAM is taking – is about using the land asset that the people of Queensland own to drive economic development, to build social capital and to provide benefits to all Queenslanders in their communities, in their regions. I think that there are enormous opportunities in communities right across Queensland. I have been to so many regional communities, for example, where there are pieces of government land that local community groups

as been impossible for those communities and those councils to progress that. GLAM and the work that it is undertaking will make all of those things possible. It will drive economic development and it will provide opportunities for not-for-profit organisations to improve their operations and build the social capital for the benefit of all Queenslanders.