

2016 – 17 Budget Estimates Volume of Additional Information

Agriculture and Environment Committee
August 2016



Agriculture and Environment Committee

2016 - 2017 Budget Estimates

Volume of Additional Information

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Copy of Documents tabled at hearing:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Fisheries – Green paper on fisheries management reform in Queensland, July 2016 • Bundle of advertising material associated with the Queensland government's FMD preparedness program • Copy of a media release by Minister Donaldson titled 'Johne's disease management in Queensland'
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Pre-hearing Questions on Notice and Answers
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answer provided by Minister Miles to question on notice No. 636 • List of properties purchased between 1 October 2013 and 12 January 2015 for koala habitats • Copy of page 7 of the 2016-17 SDS for the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection • Copy of an article titled 'Drunken Excess' from the 12 July 2016 edition of The Courier Mail • Copy of an email from Julie McLellan, Chief Executive Officer, Healthy Waterways, to Phillip Halton regarding the use of DEHP funds for the Healthy Awards function • Extract from proof transcript, Estimates hearings, 20 July 2016, Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources Committee
Correspondence:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter from the Minister for the Environment and Heritage Protection, National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef, dated 27 July 2016

Minutes





Agriculture and Environment Committee

Meeting No.55E

Wednesday 15 June 2016, at 10:30 am
Room 5.30, level 5, Parliamentary Annexe

1. **Members Present:** Mr Glenn Butcher, Chair, Member for Gladstone
Mr Tony Perrett, Member for Gympie
Mrs Julieanne Gilbert, Member for Mackay
Mr Jim Madden, Member for Ipswich West
Mr Ted Sorensen, Member for Hervey Bay
Mr Robbie Katter, Member for Mount Isa

Apologies: Nil

In attendance: Mr Rob Hansen, Research Director
Mr Karl Holden, Secretary, Inquiry into the Vegetation Management
(Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016
Mr Paul Douglas, Principal Research Officer
2. **Estimates 2016-17**
 - 2.1 Timetable for consideration of portfolio budget estimates**

Moved Mrs Gilbert seconded Mr Katter

That the committee agrees to the draft timetable, and notes that the hearing program is yet to be agreed.

Agreed
 - 2.2 Hearing program for Friday 22 July 2016**

The committee agreed to finalise its program at its next meeting.
3. **Next Meeting:** 1:15 pm, Friday 17 June 2016.

4. **Close** There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 10.57am.

Certified correct this 10th day of August 2016.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Glenn Butcher'.

Glenn Butcher MP
Chair



Agriculture and Environment Committee

Meeting No.57E

Friday 17 June 2016, at 1:20 pm

Room 504a, level 5, Parliamentary Annexe

1. **Members Present:** Mr Glenn Butcher, Chair, Member for Gladstone
Mr Tony Perrett, Member for Gympie
Mrs Julieanne Gilbert, Member for Mackay
Mr Jim Madden, Member for Ipswich West
Mr Ted Sorensen, Member for Hervey Bay
- Apologies:** Mr Robbie Katter, Member for Mount Isa
- In attendance:** Mr Rob Hansen, Research Director
Mr Karl Holden, Secretary, Inquiry into the Vegetation Management
(Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016
Mr Paul Douglas, Principal Research Officer

2. Estimates 2016-17

2.1 Hearing program for Friday 22 July 2016

Moved Mrs Gilbert seconded Mr Perrett

That the revised draft hearing program be agreed to.

Agreed

2.2 Times for Ministers' opening statements

Moved Mr Perrett seconded Mr Madden

That each Minister's opening statements at the commencement of the time blocks for their portfolios shall not exceed five minutes in total.

Agreed

2.3 Request for leave to participate in the estimates hearing

Moved Mr Perrett seconded Mr Sorensen

That the committee grants leave to Mr Nichols MP, Ms Frecklington MP, Mr Seeney MP, Mr Last MP and Dr Rowan MP to participate in the committee's estimates hearing.

3. **Close** There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 1:23 pm.

Certified correct this 10th day of August 2016.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Glenn Butcher', followed by a period.

Glenn Butcher MP
Chair



Agriculture and Environment Committee

Meeting No.62E

Wednesday 29 June 2016, at 3:50pm

Room 5.04A, level 5 Parliamentary Annexe

1. **Members Present:** Mr Glenn Butcher, Chair, Member for Gladstone
Mr Tony Perrett, Member for Gympie
Mrs Julieanne Gilbert, Member for Mackay
Mr Jim Madden, Member for Ipswich West
Mr Ted Sorensen, Member for Hervey Bay (via telephone)
Mr Robbie Katter, Member for Mount Isa
- Apologies:** Nil
- In attendance:** Mr Rob Hansen, Research Director
Mr Paul Douglas, Principal Research Officer

2. Estimates 2016

2.1 Leave to participate in the estimates hearing

Moved Mr Perrett seconded Mrs Gilbert

That further to the motion agreed by the committee on 17 June 2016 granting leave to Mr Nichols MP, Ms Frecklington MP, Mr Seeney MP, Mr Last MP and Dr Rowan MP to participate in the committee's estimates hearing, the committee:

- reaffirms that it grants leave to Mr Nichols MP, Ms Frecklington MP, Mr Seeney MP, Mr Last MP and Dr Rowan MP to participate in the committee's estimates hearing, in accordance with Standing Order 181(e); and
- grants further leave to the Member for Dalrymple to participate in the hearings for the consideration of estimates for Minister Miles, and for the Member for Bundamba to participate in all of the hearings in accordance with SO181(e).

Agreed

2.2 Questions on Notice

Moved Mr Katter seconded Mr Perrett

That the committee notes the responses provided by the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef, and the Minister for

Agriculture and Fisheries on 21 July 2016 in response to the committee's questions on notice and authorises that they be published.

2.3 General hearing procedures

Moved Mr Perrett seconded Mrs Gilbert

That the committee notes for the estimates hearing:

- SO 181(g) provides members broad latitude to ask questions relevant to the examination of the Appropriations being considered by the committee to determine whether the proposed expenditure should be agreed to;
- SO 180(2) provides that, for statutory authorities, a member may ask any question which the committee determines will assist it in its examination of the Appropriation Bill or otherwise to determine whether public funds are being efficiently spent or appropriate guarantees are being provided;
- In accordance with SO 181, committee members and visiting members may directly question Ministers and Directors-General, and the following CEOs of entities listed in Schedule 7 of the Standing Orders:
 - Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges (Mr Mark Tobin, Principal Executive Officer), and
 - QRAA (Mr Cameron Macmillan, CEO);
- As with all committee hearings, the Chair presides over the estimates hearings and is the arbiter for all procedural matters in the same way that the Speaker presides over sittings of the House. The correct process for a member wishing to challenge a ruling of the Chair is to request the Chair to adjourn the hearing so the committee may deliberate in private on the Chair's ruling;
- Room A35 has been set aside for the committee's exclusive private use during the hearing to meet to resolve procedural matters and for breaks; and
- Catering has been ordered only for the morning tea break from 11.00-11.30am and the afternoon tea break from 4.00-4.30pm.

3. **Close** There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 3:57pm.

Certified correct this 10th day of August 2016.



Glenn Butcher MP
Chair



Agriculture and Environment Committee

Meeting No.63E

Wednesday 10 August 2016, at 10:27am

Teleconference

1. **Members Present:** Mr Glenn Butcher, Chair, Member for Gladstone
Mr Tony Perrett, Member for Gympie
Mrs Julieanne Gilbert, Member for Mackay
Mr Jim Madden, Member for Ipswich West
Mr Ted Sorensen, Member for Hervey Bay
Mr Robbie Katter, Member for Mount Isa

Apologies: Nil

In attendance: Ms Emily Booth, A/Research Director
Mr Paul Douglas, Principal Research Officer

2. Minutes of Estimates meetings

Moved Mrs Gilbert seconded Mr Sorensen

That the minutes of the following meetings for Estimates 2016 be agreed to:

- meeting No. 55E on 15 June 2016
- meeting No. 57E on 17 June 2016, and
- meeting No. 62E on 29 June 2016.

Agreed

3. Consideration of the Chair's draft report No. 20

Moved Mr Butcher seconded Mr Madden

That the committee adopts the Chairs' report No. 20 on portfolio estimates for 2016-17 as its report, as amended, and authorises that the report be tabled in conjunction with a volume of additional information on Friday 12 August 2016.

Agreed

4. Dissenting reports/statements of reservations

Moved Mr Perrett seconded Mrs Gilbert

That the committee notes that any statements of reservations or dissenting reports are to be provided to the Research Director within 24 hours of the report being adopted (ie 10:00 am on Thursday 11 August 2016) in accordance with SO 187(3).

Agreed

5. Volume of additional information

Moved Mrs Gilbert seconded Mr Katter

That the following information be included in the volume of additional information to be tabled together with the committee's report:

- minutes of the committee's private meetings 55E, 57E, 62E and 63E in connection with its consideration of portfolio budget estimates
- Ministers' answers to the committee's pre-hearing questions and questions taken on notice at the public hearing on 22 July 2016
- Minister Miles' letter to the committee dated 27 July 2016 providing additional information and correcting a figure contained in an answer to a question taken on notice, and
- documents tabled during the hearing.

Agreed

6. Corrections to the hearing transcript

Moved Mrs Gilbert seconded Mr Perrett

That the transcript be finalised by amending the draft to incorporate the corrections provided on behalf of Ministers Miles and Donaldson on 28 July 2016.

Agreed

7. Close There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 10:37 am.

Certified correct this 12th day of August 2016.



Glenn Butcher MP
Chair

Correspondence relating to attendance of non-committee members





Office of the Leader of the Opposition

Mineral House
Level 7,
41 George Street
PO Box 15057
City East QLD 4002

20 May, 2016

Mr Glenn Butcher
Chair
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Email: aec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Butcher

Pursuant to Section 181 [e] of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly I write to you today to seek leave for the following Non-Government Members of Parliament to attend the public Estimates hearings of the Agriculture and Environment Committee, scheduled for 22 July, 2016:

- Tim Nicholls, Member for Clayfield
- Deb Frecklington, Member for Nanango
- Jeff Seeney, Member for Callide
- Dale Last, Member for Burdekin
- Christian Rowan, Member for Moggill

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Nicholls".

TIM NICHOLLS MP
Leader of the Opposition

Jo-Ann Miller MP

State Member for Bundamba
PO Box 122 GOODNA Q 4300
bundamba@parliament.qld.gov.au
Ph 3288 3737
Fax 3818 1613



Chair Mr Glenn Butcher MP
Agriculture and Environment Committee

aec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Chair,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glenn", written over the word "Chair".

I am writing to seek leave to appear at your Estimates Committee to ask questions of the Ministers in relation to their portfolios.

I understand that the Agriculture and Environment Committee is meeting on the 22nd of July.

I would be grateful if you could advise your decision as soon as possible please.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jo Ann Miller".

Jo-Ann Miller MP

Jo-Ann gets things done



twitter @JoAnnMillerMP



Serving Dalrymple

SHANE KNUTH MP

19 July 2016

Mr Glenn Butcher MP,
Member for Gladstone,

Agriculture and Environment Committee Chair
aec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Butcher

I write to seek leave of the Agriculture and Environment Committee as part of the Estimates Hearings on the 22nd of July.

If possible may I attend the session directly after the lunch break concerning the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection?

I look forward to receiving your response,

Yours sincerely

Shane Knuth MP
Member for Dalrymple

Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries



Agriculture and Environment Committee

Pre-hearing Questions on Notice and Answers



**Agriculture and Environment Committee
Government Question on Notice**

No. 1

Asked on 29 June 2016

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (HON L DONALDSON)—

QUESTION:

What is the current status of the Yarwun Red Imported Fire Ant incursion response?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The final surveillance round has been undertaken in Yarwun and I am pleased to announce that no red imported fire ants have been found. Once the pest free area report is approved by the national cost share partners the 2013 incursion of red imported fire ants in Yarwun can be declared eradicated.

We will now undertake steps to revoke the movement restrictions that have been in place in the region to prevent the spread of fire ants.

This will be the third fire ant incursion that we have successfully eradicated, following previous successes in Yarwun in 2010 and the Port of Brisbane in 2012.

In June 2016, National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program staff and local contractors completed the final round of systematic surveillance across Yarwun and the wider Gladstone region.

Using odour detection dogs across the region we were able to confirm the area is free from fire ants. The dogs' noses are highly sensitive and enhance our visual surveillance techniques by sniffing out any ants that may be hiding underground out of human sight.

This final surveillance follows 6 rounds of treatment and 3 previous rounds of surveillance.

A comprehensive and highly successful community engagement campaign encouraging public reporting was undertaken in March and April 2016. Public support has proven invaluable to the Yarwun Program and I applaud the commitment shown by local businesses and other stakeholders to ridding the area of fire ants.

The Yarwun Program has been delivered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on behalf of the other jurisdictions which provide cost shared funding, after the new incursion was found in 2013. The department's swift response to the initial public report meant that action was taken to contain the fire ants and avoid further infestation and spread.

Queensland remains committed to the eradication of fire ants and has demonstrated a level of success that has not been observed in any other fire ant eradication program anywhere in the world.

The Yarwun Program has achieved complete eradication in just 2.5 years, which is 1.5 years faster than Gladstone's previous fire ant eradication.

This is a major achievement for Queensland and our national cost-share partners, and more importantly for the local community and the future enjoyment of outdoor pursuits by all Australians.

**Agriculture and Environment Committee
Government Question on Notice**

No. 2

Asked on 29 June 2016

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (HON L DONALDSON)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline the need for the additional funds for Biosecurity?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Queensland Biosecurity Capability Review was a key election commitment for the Queensland Government, with a view to restoring the State's biosecurity capability to world's best practice. This was needed after the former Government's public service cuts of approximately 26 per cent in 2012.

In response to the review's recommendations, the Government is providing additional funding of \$10.8 million over four years and funding of \$19.4 million has been internally reallocated by the department to implement improvements to Queensland's biosecurity system. This funding demonstrates the Government's commitment to better biosecurity for all Queenslanders.

The Government is also providing increased funding of \$12.4 million over four years and funding of \$3.6 million has been internally reallocated by the department to support emergent biosecurity programs. This funding will support the continuation of a response program to the detection of the Tropical Race 4 strain of Panama disease and support improved management and control of wild dogs in far western Queensland. These programs are keeping Queensland farmers in business.

Finally, the \$12.4 million also includes funding to support the important work of the RSPCA. This recognises the increased workload on the RSPCA inspectorate in response to the new puppy farm legislation and provides a capital grant for facility upgrades in Cairns and Townsville.

**Agriculture and Environment Committee
Government Question on Notice**

No. 3

Asked on 29 June 2016

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (HON L DONALDSON)—

QUESTION:

What impact will the Puppy Farms legislation and funding have to stop puppy farms?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Government continues to deliver on its election commitments in regard to puppy farms. The *Animal Management (Protecting Puppies) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016* was assented to on 25 May 2016 and provided for amendments to the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* to establish a compulsory registration scheme for dog breeders.

Dog breeders, except for genuine breeders of working dogs, will be required to register for a breeder identification number which must be included on the microchip details of their dogs and must be displayed when advertising a dog for sale or to be given away.

These new provisions will be an effective tool in ensuring the traceability of puppies back to the breeder and end puppy farming in Queensland, and will give those people who profit from this cruel trade nowhere to hide. Importantly, shutting down unscrupulous breeders will mean that the people of Queensland are able to enjoy the benefits of owning a dog knowing with full confidence that it has been bred by a reputable breeder.

Additional funding of \$250,000 per annum has been provided in the 2016-17 Budget to support the RSPCA to work in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to administer the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*.

This will increase the Government's annual grant to the RSPCA to approximately \$500,000 for inspectorate services and will enable the RSPCA to provide greater support to the Government's commitment to shut down cruel puppy farms.

This funding is in addition to a further \$3 million over two years in capital grants for much needed infrastructure improvements in the Cairns and Townsville Animal Care Campuses. Sheltering of animals in suitable facilities is an important part of rehabilitating abandoned and abused dogs and this additional funding will go towards modernising and upgrading these facilities.

**Agriculture and Environment Committee
Government Question on Notice**

No. 4

Asked on 29 June 2016

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (HON L DONALDSON)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister highlight the current staff location of BQ staff in Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries protects Queensland's plants and animals and the environment from biosecurity threats that could jeopardise Queensland's important industries, economy and lifestyle. This service upholds the State's reputation for quality products, free from pests and diseases.

DAF's Biosecurity staff are located in 48 locations throughout Queensland.

As at 30 June 2016, DAF's Biosecurity Queensland had a budgeted threshold of 561 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff.

There are 210 actual FTE staff employed within the greater Brisbane area, across Coopers Plains, Dutton Park, Moggill, Richlands, Rocklea and Wacol. These locations include operational and scientific staff within the National Red Imported Fire Ant eradication program, the Panama tropical race 4 program, Animal Biosecurity and Welfare, Invasive Plants and Animals and the Plant Biosecurity and Product Integrity programs.

The remaining FTE staff are located in regional areas throughout Queensland.

Comparatively, DAF's Biosecurity Queensland employs approximately 57 per cent of staff within the greater Brisbane area and 43 per cent are regionally based.

**Agriculture and Environment Committee
Government Question on Notice**

No. 5

Asked on 29 June 2016

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (HON L DONALDSON)—

QUESTION:

What research is being done in horticulture to improve productivity with small trees?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Small Tree High Productivity Initiative is focused on making tree fruit and nut crops more profitable, sustainable and internationally competitive, growing regional economies and increasing Queensland's horticultural exports.

While the initiative will initially focus on mango, avocado and macadamia, the research is expected to benefit other fruit tree crops.

The initiative is a collaborative research program led by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) in partnership with the University of Queensland's Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI) and the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries. This initiative is one of the largest programs of horticultural field research undertaken by DAF.

The initiative focuses on developing vigour management systems so that trees put more energy into fruit production, rather than stem and branches. DAF is intensively searching for vigour-reducing rootstocks.

Rootstock screening trials, looking for low vigour, have been planted at DAF's Walkamin and Bundaberg Research Facilities. These include mango and commercially and semi-commercially available avocado rootstocks. Approximately 20 unique rootstocks for a low vigour macadamia rootstock trial are currently being propagated.

There is also a strong focus on improving orchard management systems for these crops. Large scale trials for each crop have been established to identify optimum tree planting densities, to develop improved tree pruning systems, to manage crop load, to eliminate biennial bearing and to understand how to most efficiently capture the sun's energy for fruit production.

An advisory committee, which includes national representatives from each of the three tree crop industries, has been established to provide feedback on progress and help guide the initiative.

Tree crop research is a long-term investment and will need to continue for approximately 20 years to deliver the anticipated significant increases in productivity.

While DAF expects a series of small advancements along the way, the initiative is long-term, strategic research, with profound transformational outcomes for the profitability of the tree crops involved.

Further co-funding for the initiative has just been granted by Horticulture Innovation Australia after a very favourable review from an independent reviewer.

**Agriculture and Environment Committee
Government Question on Notice**

No. 6

Asked on 29 June 2016

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (HON L DONALDSON)—

QUESTION:

What preparedness has the Department done in relation to Foot and Mouth disease?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

Australia's foot and mouth disease-free status supports our access to valuable export markets for many livestock products. This makes Queensland particularly vulnerable to a foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreak which would affect our export markets, especially for beef.

An incident of FMD would result in the immediate closure of these markets.

The social and economic consequences of an FMD incident would be severe and prolonged. A recent study estimates that a large multi-state FMD outbreak could cost Australia more than \$52 billion in lost revenue over 10 years. Even a small outbreak in Queensland would cost more than \$5 billion in lost revenue over 10 years.

The Queensland Government has sponsored a 3 year program to enhance preparedness for FMD in Queensland to protect our valuable livestock industries.

The program has comprehensively addressed critical issues to ensure Queensland is as prepared for an outbreak of FMD as it can be. This has included a major focus on:

- enhanced arrangements to implement and manage a livestock standstill, a critical tool in the management of FMD to stop the movement of livestock and further spread of the virus;
- surveillance plans during response and proof of freedom phases to allow Queensland's primary industries to return to business as usual in the shortest possible time;
- an emergency FMD vaccination strategy for Queensland; and
- planning for the management of mass animal destruction and disposal.

In 2015-16, the Queensland Government introduced an FMD awareness campaign to increase the awareness of the impacts of an FMD outbreak and promote early detection of the disease should it occur in Queensland.

The awareness campaign consists of advertising, media and social media promotion supported by direct mail of FMD information packs to livestock industry stakeholders. Direct mail has included:

- a guide for livestock producers, mailed to 25,000 livestock producers;

- a livestock standstill brochure for supply chain industries, mailed to 1,700 businesses;
- factsheets, magnets and posters for pig owners and producers on swill feeding, mailed to 650 pig producers;
- factsheets and waste bin stickers for food outlets that may supply food waste to pig owners or producers, mailed to 77 local governments; and
- a guide for veterinarians – mailed to 750 relevant Queensland veterinarians.

Two free online eLearning courses have been developed to increase the livestock community's understanding of FMD and raise awareness of prevention and early detection measures. The first is an online awareness course available to anyone working in the livestock sector or with an interest in FMD. The second is a course for veterinarians and animal health professionals covering technical aspects of the disease and appropriate disease investigation protocols. Both courses are accessible through the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' website.

There have been major improvements to Queensland's and Australia's FMD preparedness in a number of key areas including vaccination policy development, large scale animal destruction and disposal, and enhancements to early detection through a significant awareness campaign and linked online eLearning courses.

**Agriculture and Environment Committee
Government Question on Notice**

No. 7

Asked on 29 June 2016

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (HON L DONALDSON)—

QUESTION:

What work has been done with the higher education sector in relation to agriculture research?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) invests in research, development and extension (RD&E) to support the productivity and prosperity of Queensland's agriculture and food sectors.

Part of DAF's investment in research is conducted through alliances with universities.

In 2015-16, DAF invested \$10.6 million in university partnerships including:

- \$7.16 million with UQ in the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI). QAAFI is a research collaboration, between UQ and the Queensland Government, to work together on key agricultural industry challenges. QAAFI has 80 associated Research Scientists from both DAF and UQ and 57 postgraduate students, delivering strategic and applied research projects. This results in an increased capability in Queensland for agricultural research and tertiary education in a leading university. Approximately 114 researchers and students are located at DAF research facilities;
- \$900,000 with QUT for research into tropical pulses. The key aim was to develop more productive, profitable and resilient chickpea and mung bean options for Queensland growers and industry;
- \$500,000 with QUT to fast-track the commissioning of farm robotic technology, thereby making Queensland a global leader in agriculture automation and innovation;
- \$877,000 with USQ for research into agricultural engineering and winter crop nematology;
- \$200,000 with USQ on a project that researches supply chains and investigated opportunities for the improved supply of agricultural produce and value-adding for specific export markets. In particular studies in the horticultural produce and chilled beef value chains in relation to the airport perishables export hub on the eastern Downs;
- \$358,000 with USC in pre-harvest forestry research; and
- \$221,000 with CQU to co-fund 3 research positions in vegetable crop protection and farming systems research.

These partnerships enable DAF to harness more first-class science to boost research outcomes for Queensland industries by:

- enabling Queensland to better access international science networks and equipment to produce higher impact research in Queensland;
- drawing in additional resources from new and wider disciplines to address agricultural sector issues (including biosecurity);
- creating long-term career opportunities for young Queensland scientists;
- attracting greater research and development funding to Queensland's agricultural sector than would otherwise be possible; and
- delivering high quality and applied research with high industry impact.

DAF also supports postgraduate students through their engagement on collaborative research projects. One such example is a Grains Research and Development funded project titled 'Building research capacity in the northern grains region'. This project is supporting post-doctoral positions aligned to the University of Queensland - Professor of Agronomy and USQ – Centre for Crop Health.

DAF interacts with universities to highlight and encourage studies and employment in the agriculture and food sector. A particular example is the attendance by DAF personnel at University Open Days, where staff highlight the broad range of career pathways available to graduates from an agricultural related qualification.

As a result of a number of collaborations with various universities, DAF now jointly holds ownership over several patents. Examples include:

- co-ownership with Texas A & M University, in the United States, for the 'Staygreen' patent related to broad acre crops;
- co-ownership with several parties, including the University of New England, for the development of a vaccine to immunise against Bovine Respiratory Disease;
- co-ownership with several parties, including the University of New England, for the identification and development of DNA markers to assess meat tenderness; and
- co-ownership with USQ for an apparatus that allows the more efficient separation of cane billets from trash collected during harvesting.

The Invasive Plants and Animals group within Biosecurity Queensland provides support to universities through supervision of students, field and/or laboratory support. Scholarships were provided for some students and this work was undertaken at our Tropical Weeds Research Centre in Charters Towers, the Ecosciences Precinct in Brisbane and our Pest Animal Research Centre in Toowoomba, supporting at least 15 research scientists working on understanding and controlling invasive species to Queensland.

In summary, substantial work is being done with the higher education sector, working with Queensland, national and international institutions, covering the broad agriculture and food industry sectors.

**Agriculture and Environment Committee
Government Question on Notice**

No. 8

Asked on 29 June 2016

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (HON L DONALDSON)—

QUESTION:

How will the new Queensland Government Aquaculture policy benefit Queensland seafood industry?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Queensland Government released an Aquaculture Policy Statement in April this year to provide a clear statement of support for the future development and growth of an ecologically sustainable, diverse and innovative aquaculture industry. The aquaculture industry in Queensland has the potential to develop into a much larger industry and the Government is keen to see it expand, to not only supply local seafood but support regional jobs growth.

In 2014-15 Queensland's aquaculture industry employed more than 450 full-time equivalents and had a gross value of production of over \$120 million, which represents more than 38 per cent of the total state value of fisheries production. A number of operators are currently expanding their farms or looking to acquire new sites.

The Policy Statement includes initiatives to improve industry's own performance in areas such as nutrient discharge management, and a framework for the future development of the aquaculture industry in Queensland. Key initiatives include progression of a strategic approach to planning for aquaculture sites, alignment of development assessment processes across government agencies, a risk-based approach to assessment of development applications, and the adoption of a continuous improvement model for aquaculture development, based on a partnership approach between industry, government and research institutions.

The Policy Statement will also assist with delivering the supported recommendations of the Queensland Competition Authority's report on Aquaculture Regulation in Queensland. The supported recommendations include the identification of terrestrial aquaculture development areas, creating assessment codes which contain the regulatory conditions for aquaculture in each aquaculture development area identified, providing certainty about the future price and availability of environmental offsets, and investigating the potential for marine aquaculture development areas.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is co-ordinating the implementation of the Policy Statement and supported recommendations with other Government agencies and input from the aquaculture industry. Preliminary work has commenced to start the identification of potential aquaculture development areas. An advisory committee is being established to oversee the implementation of the

recommendations and I have written to other Government agencies, industry and research organisations inviting representatives to participate on the committee.

The renewed commitment of the Queensland Government to the future development of aquaculture should raise industry and investor confidence and in turn enhance the economic and employment benefits of aquaculture in Queensland.

The aquaculture industry in Queensland has great potential to be developed as a sustainable and profitable industry. The Policy Statement and implementation of the supported QCA recommendations will provide greater certainty for industry, drive investment and innovation and significantly increase seafood production for Queensland.

**Agriculture and Environment Committee
Government Question on Notice**

No. 9

Asked on 29 June 2016

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (HON L DONALDSON)—

QUESTION:

How will a recreational fisher benefit from the recent changes to the Stocked Impoundment Permit Scheme?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

Recreational fishers will benefit in many ways from the recent changes to the Stocked Impoundment Permit Scheme. The changes mean more fishers will have confidence in knowing the scheme impoundments they fish in are stocked with fish and that when they cast a line there are fish to be caught.

Under the changes fishers now have an additional 31 scheme impoundments to fish in. This almost doubles the number of impoundments in the scheme to a total of 63.

The expansion gives fishers more choice when selecting a location to fish, including world class barramundi fisheries in northern and central Queensland, iconic Murray cod and golden perch fisheries in the west and Australian bass and saratoga sports fishing in southern Queensland. It is now more exciting than ever for fishers to select a freshwater fishing destination, where at least 75% of the money spent on a permit goes directly to further enhancing these recreational fisheries.

The community fish stocking groups that the scheme supports now also have more flexibility in maintaining and enhancing these recreational fisheries. Not only do the additional 31 impoundments receive guaranteed funding each year for fish stocking, but groups also have the option to apply to use funding for other activities that will improve the recreational fishing experience. This will ensure the scheme impoundments will continue to meet the expectation of recreational fishers.

We have now made it even easier for every recreational fisher over the age of 18 to buy a permit allowing them to fish in a scheme impoundment. The scheme permits are now digital meaning there is no more need to keep a paper permit safe and carry it around with you. When a fisher buys a permit online, over the phone or at an agent, the permit is instantly emailed and text messaged to the fisher. The fisher can simply display the permit on their phone when requested by an inspector.

For fishers who prefer to purchase their permit in person, there are 586 Australia Post outlets where they can buy a permit and receive a paper permit at the point of sale. This is an increase of over 430 locations where fishers can buy a permit in person.

Finally, permit fees are now fixed for five year terms. This makes it easier for fishers to know what they need to pay from year to year. The prices are \$10 for a weekly permit, \$50 for a yearly permit and \$36 for those who are entitled to a discount yearly permit. These prices will remain the same until 2021.

**Agriculture and Environment Committee
Government Question on Notice**

No. 10

Asked on 29 June 2016

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (HON L DONALDSON)—

QUESTION:

In regards to the three Net Free Zones introduced by the Government to increase fish stocks and increase recreational fishing tourism has there been any consideration to an additional buy back?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

As part of the introduction of the three Net Free Zones in 2015 a voluntary Licence Buyback Scheme was established and offered to eligible licence holders whose licence had been used for netting within one of the zones. This scheme was intended to reduce effort being displaced into other areas and other fisheries as a result of the zones' introduction.

Effort displacement results in increased pressures on fish stocks and conflict between displaced fishers and recreational fishers and other commercial fishers. The aim of the scheme was to remove fishing effort that was nominally calculated to be the equivalent of 46 commercial fishing vessel licences across the three zones.

The Buyback Scheme closed on 2 December 2015 and 27 licences were purchased. Despite this effort being removed the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has received information that effort displacement has occurred. As a result I approved the development of a second buyback to seek the purchase of additional licences.

All stakeholders were asked to contribute their views on the design of the second buyback scheme. This is in line with this Government's commitment to progress the introduction of the zones in close consultation with relevant stakeholders such as the fishing industry and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Most stakeholder feedback supported the eligibility criteria for this second buyback being expanded to the majority of licences that can use large mesh nets on the East Coast. Further most stakeholders supported preference being given to licences which had been used in or adjacent to the zones and for the second buyback to use the same licence values that were used in the first buyback.

The required QRAA regulations are now being drafted. I expect that this process will be completed in the near future and I will then ask the Governor in Council to make the required amendments to the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011* which will allow the scheme to commence.

**Agriculture and Environment Committee
Non-Government Question on Notice**

No. 1

Asked on 29 June 2016

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (HON L DONALDSON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS Performance Statement and the Government's objectives to lift productivity of Queensland's food and fibre businesses. How does this stated objective fit with the State Government's budget allocation of \$2.2 million to progress the re-zoning of the Great Sandy Marine Park which will impact on commercial fishing and harvest of fresh seafood – and can the Minister advise the potential loss to commercial catches and the potential impact on local seafood businesses, including job losses?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

Ministerial responsibility for the *Marine Parks Act 2004* and hence, any review of marine park zoning plans, rests with the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef.

**Agriculture and Environment Committee
Non-Government Question on Notice**

No. 2

Asked on 29 June 2016

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (HON L DONALDSON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to p 11 of the SDS: can the Minister advise what programs will be cut/curtailed by the redirection of resources, staff and funds, from the general Departmental pool to the announced Office of Rural Affairs and what impact this will have on those programs?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

In recognition of the importance of rural Queensland the Queensland Government is establishing the Office of Rural Affairs as an independent Office within the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) to ensure the necessary rural and regional information is available for government policy decision making.

The Office has funding of \$2 million until 2019-20 or \$500,000 per year consisting of \$250,000 additional funding and \$250,000 of in-kind support. This in-kind support would consist of existing departmental staff providing project and secretariat support on an as needs basis to the Office.

DAF provides these types of services as part of its flexible work programs within business units. No programs will be cut/curtailed as a result of the establishment of the office.

**Agriculture and Environment Committee
Non-Government Question on Notice**

No. 3

Asked on 29 June 2016

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (HON L DONALDSON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to staffing levels as referred to on Page 15 of the SDS and the reduction in Estimated Actual staff numbers from 1948 in 2014-15 to 1808 in 2015-16 [which includes total staff for Agriculture, Biosecurity Queensland and Fisheries and Forestry] I ask:

allowing for the small budgeted increase to 1835 staff, can the Minister advise how a reduction of 140 staff in those key areas in the past year, including a reduction of 74 in Agriculture (1001 down to 927) and a reduction of 60 in Biosecurity (621 down to 561) is achieving the stated objectives of lifting productivity of Queensland's food and fibre businesses?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

As stated in previous years estimate hearings, the FTE staffing numbers from the SDS reflect 'nominal thresholds' not actual positions.

I refer to footnote seven on page 15 of the 2015-16 SDS, noting that the nominal threshold for FTEs was recalibrated to better reflect the number of positions remaining within my department following the staff losses and significant budget cuts under the previous government.

Since 2015-16, staffing levels have remained consistent. They are supported by short term labour hire capacity as required, which ensures my department continues to meet its stated objectives and emerging priorities.

With the 2016-17 budget now confirmed, my department will continue to monitor staffing numbers within the increased threshold of 2057 FTEs, to ensure sustainable service delivery.

**Agriculture and Environment Committee
Non-Government Question on Notice**

No. 4

Asked on 29 June 2016

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (HON L DONALDSON)—

QUESTION:

I refer to the SDS Performance Statement and the Government's objectives to lift productivity of Queensland's food and fibre businesses, and I ask, can the Minister detail:

- a) how the Government's intends to achieve these objectives given the total expenses in budget out-years to 2019-20 (Graph SDS page 16) shows a significant decline in forecast total expenses for the Department for the three years 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 even allowing for a 'hoped for' end to the crippling drought and departmental funding on relief measures; and,
- b) can the Minister list those areas of service delivery where savings are to be made to achieve these lower budget levels?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Queensland Government is committed to Queensland's food and fibre sector which has an estimated forecast value of \$17.32 billion for 2015-16, and is a significant contributor to the Queensland economy. The Government is committed to ensuring that those businesses remain productive, profitable and sustainable, and support long term jobs.

Although I cannot detail in this answer the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) entire planned work to drive growth and sustainability in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector, I will provide some key initiatives announced as part of the Budget for 2016-17 which will certainly play a major role going forward.

The Rural Assistance and Drought Package is providing total funding of \$77.9 million over five years from 2015-16 to assist those affected by debt and unprecedented drought conditions. With 83.92 percent of the State drought-declared, the additional funding provided in the 2016-17 Budget comes at a crucial time for rural and regional Queensland.

The Rural Assistance Package component is aimed at reducing financial stress and improving the financial sustainability of the rural sector. The package is a total of \$36 million over five years from 2015-16 which provides for:

- increased education support for children in drought affected areas
- grants to support farm financial management, climate risk mitigation, succession planning and undertaking of multi-peril insurance assessment
- the establishment of an Office of Rural Affairs within DAF
- the extension of transfer duty concessions to family farm businesses

- the introduction of a legislated Farm Debt Mediation process before bank enforcement action
- a Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority with enhanced powers and responsibilities
- continued pest and weed management programs.

In 2016-17, DAF will invest approximately \$75 million in agricultural research, development and extension which will be boosted by an additional \$45 million in external funding. Research, development and extension is critical to the development of new technologies and systems that support agriculture industries to become more productive, profitable and sustainable, and continues to be a key focus for the Queensland Government.

In addition, the Government's Advance Queensland initiative focuses on growing the economy and creating jobs, acknowledging the need for industries to keep innovating in order to remain competitive in a global market.

The establishment of the DAF Technology Commercialisation Fund has been announced as a part of the Accelerate Advance Queensland program. The \$4.8 million budget will be invested to establish the fund structure and underlying requirements. The fund itself is expected to be self-funding in its fourth year of operation.

This initiative demonstrates the Government's vision for the future, with an innovative approach to commercialising Intellectual Property developed by DAF and its collaborators, with a view to generating medium to longer term funding for agriculture and food research and development.

The Government is also progressing with a range of initiatives to support the development of the workforce of the future, including the industry-led Rural Jobs and Skills Alliance with Queensland Farmers' Federation, AgForce Queensland, Growcom, Cotton Australia, Canegrowers and DAF.

The alliance has established comprehensive data on Queensland's agricultural workforce and is providing advice to government, industry and service providers on strategies to meet unique industry needs.

DAF has also supported the establishment of the Queensland Agriculture Workforce Network to assist agriculture employers to address current and future labour and skills issues, by exploring a range of approaches to access workers, and exploring alternative approaches when labour shortages occur.

In terms of the specific budget figures referred to in the question, the decrease in expenses reported in the SDS from 2015-16 to 2016-17 is a result of the 2016-17 budget not including expenses associated with \$14.5 million for the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program. These arrangements were agreed post the finalisation of the 2016-17 Budget estimates.

The decrease in expenses beyond 2016-17 is the result of the drought relief assistance scheme and Panama Tropical Race 4 response activities being funded one year at a time. Therefore no expenses are allocated for these programs in the outer years.

Expenses associated with national cost sharing arrangements for pest and weed eradication programs are also yet to be finalised.

There are no areas of service delivery which will suffer as a consequence of these budget anomalies, and DAF will continue to deliver for rural and regional Queensland, and the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector.

**Agriculture and Environment Committee
Non-Government Question on Notice**

No. 5

Asked on 29 June 2016

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (HON L DONALDSON)—

QUESTION:

I refer to the SDS Performance Statement and the Government's objectives to lift productivity of Queensland's food and fibre businesses, and I ask: can the Minister detail how the Government's plan to restrict vegetation management options with its changes to Queensland's tree-clearing laws will achieve the stated object for primary producers looking to expand production, particularly high-value and high-value irrigated agriculture and what empirical evidence will be used to gauge any impact of the Government's changes to vegetation management on farm productivity?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

I note that the Queensland Government's proposed amendments to the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* still provide for a range of options for landholders to undertake or expand agriculture. These include clearing in areas identified as category X vegetation and clearing in accordance with existing self-assessable codes. Importantly, landholders will continue to be able to obtain a Property Map of Assessable Vegetation (PMAV) if they disagree with Government's broad scale vegetation mapping, and 'lock in' vegetation categories on their property.

The Government has also retained the ability for large-scale agriculture development applications to continue under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* where they are designated as a coordinated project, or on Aboriginal land in Cape York under the *Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007*.

This means large-scale developments such as the Integrated Food and Energy Development and Stanbroke's Three Rivers Project, both in the Gulf region of North Queensland, can continue through the Coordinator-General's assessment and evaluation process. If approved for development, this process ensures projects will be undertaken in a sustainable manner, safeguarding long term economic growth for the region and local communities.

The Queensland agriculture sector has grown, and will continue to grow, through innovative production, technology and market based advances. In April 2016, the 2015-16 Gross Value of Production of Queensland's primary industry commodities at the farm gate was forecast to be nearly \$13.74 billion. This is three per cent greater than the initial estimate reported in October 2015, and 16 per cent greater than the average for the past five years.

The continued profitability and productivity growth of the agricultural sector is a key focus of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF). DAF supports this direction through extensive programs in research, development and extension,

industry development, biosecurity and by working across government to set a policy agenda conducive to growth.

The Queensland Government has committed to establishing a One Stop Service to enable private sector initiatives for developing appropriate water and land resources in North Queensland on a sustainable basis.

DAF has employed two staff who are currently undertaking an evaluation of existing systems and services, including consultation with frontline development assessment staff of various departments to develop a synthesis report. This report will inform recommendations to the Government on the development and practical implementation of the One Stop Service pilot.

A senior crop agronomist has been recently appointed to work with landholders and industry development officers to maximise opportunities for agricultural development in the Gulf region of North Queensland through agricultural diversification. This economic growth is capitalising on water resources being made available by the Government's recent review of the Gulf Water Resource Plan, and subsequent water allocation tender process.

New water resource opportunities in Central Queensland also have the potential to open up existing dryland cropping areas to irrigation, boosting productivity and the range of high value crops that can be grown. DAF continues to work with industry, water providers and local government on maximising these opportunities, particularly those arising from the Federal Government's National Water Infrastructure Development Fund.

Other government and industry commitments, such as the Northern Australia Cooperative Research Centre, will provide additional avenues to facilitate agricultural growth through rigorous research, development and extension projects.

DAF will continue to monitor and report on growth in the agricultural sector through the annual AgTrends publication.

**Agriculture and Environment Committee
Non-Government Question on Notice**

No. 6

Asked on 29 June 2016

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (HON L DONALDSON)—

QUESTION:

I refer to SDS page 8 under service area highlights for Fisheries for 2016-17, which outlines the following bulleted actions in the 2016-17 FY, including:

- develop a fisheries resource allocation policy based on maximising economic value
- reform regulatory arrangements governing Queensland fisheries across all sectors
- review the regulatory structure of commercial fishing to ensure the sustainability of Queensland's fisheries
- release a discussion paper on the Charter Fishing Action Plan
- engage with both recreational and commercial fishing organisations to investigate how a commercial net-free fishing area can be best instituted in Moreton Bay to obtain the maximum gain from the fisheries resource in Moreton Bay for the benefit of the region.

and I ask: can the Minister detail the projected costs and timelines for the completion of the above actions and the Government's priority in order for completion?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Government has made significant progress towards implementing the commitments made during the 2015 Queensland State Election under our Sustainable Fishing Policy.

All five commitments listed are being actioned and are at different stages of development.

With regard to the first three commitments, the Government will be progressing a broad fisheries management reform program that will cover all three elements. Public consultation on the reform program will be commencing in the near future with the release of a Green Paper which will put forward our vision for the future management of the State's fisheries resources. I would expect that the Green Paper will be open for comment for at least ten weeks.

Once the Government has received feedback on the Green Paper final policy positions will be developed. As is standard in Green Paper processes, detailed costings will be considered at that time. This approach is consistent with the Government's collaborative approach to policy development and recognises that fishing is an important pastime to many Queenslanders and an important industry in many regional communities.

In relation to the Charter Action Plan, staff from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries have held initial discussions with representatives from Queensland's charter

fishing industry. The next stage will be the release of a Charter Action Plan discussion paper for public comment before the end of the calendar year. This paper will seek broad input on potential approaches that can be taken by both industry and Government to help grow the sector. Once feedback is received it will be possible to consider whether policy or regulatory changes are required including any additional costs.

In relation to the proposal for a net free zone in Moreton Bay, over the last few months departmental staff have been having discussions with key stakeholders from both the recreational and commercial fishing sectors. The information gathered through these discussions, together with historical catch data currently being analysed by the department, will ensure that all points of view and issues are identified and considered prior to the Government identifying the best way to introduce a net free zone in Moreton Bay. Given the complexity of the issues involved this process may take some time to complete.

**Agriculture and Environment Committee
Non-Government Question on Notice**

No. 7

Asked on 29 June 2016

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (HON L DONALDSON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 6 of the SDS and the service area highlight to invest an additional \$10.8 over four years to improve the capability of Queensland's biosecurity system, I ask: can the Minister advise how many additional staff will be employed, the specific roles of those additional staff and their specific location (where they will be based)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The final report of the independent panel for the Queensland Biosecurity Capability Review concluded there is a critical need to improve Queensland's biosecurity system by building capacity and capability.

The Government's investment of an additional \$10.8 million over four years towards the implementation of the Review recommendations demonstrates the Government's commitment to better biosecurity for all Queenslanders.

It represents an opportunity to set the biosecurity system on a sustainable course for the future. However, given their breadth, the recommendations will need to be implemented over several years.

We are working with industry groups and interested stakeholders to determine if projects identified for possible investment are consistent with their priorities. We are also discussing how they can be involved with the implementation of these projects.

This is a critical first step in building our biosecurity system, as biosecurity is everyone's responsibility. To truly achieve a long-term improvement in Queensland's biosecurity capability we need a joint effort.

Once joint priorities are determined, the Government's funding commitment will be reviewed to consider how they are implemented, including what additional staff is required, what role they take and where they would be best located.

**Agriculture and Environment Committee
Non-Government Question on Notice**

No. 8

Asked on 29 June 2016

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (HON L DONALDSON)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister advise:

- a) what existing programs will be cut or significantly impacted in 2016-17 by budgeted total expenses for the coming FY of \$438,954,000 being \$10 million less than the estimated actual spend of \$449,697,000 in 2015-16; and,
- b) given this allocation is some 2.5 per cent lower than the actual spend in the previous FY, and given the general 2.5 per cent increase in government wages, what areas have been earmarked for program reductions to cover the lower level of spending?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

- a) The 2015-16 Estimated Actual of \$449.7 million includes National Cost Sharing funding for the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program (NRIFAEP) from the Federal Government and the other States, which was approved after the 2015-16 Budget was brought down in July 2015.

National Cost Sharing funding approvals for the NRIFAEP for 2016-17 were recently agreed post the finalisation of the 2016-17 Budget estimates with additional funding of approximately \$14.5 million expected in 2016-17. This additional funding is not reflected in the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' 2016-17 Budget, however the additional funding for 2016-17 is noted on pages 6 and 16 of the department's Service Delivery Statements.

The additional funding in 2016-17 for NRIFAEP will increase the department's 2016-17 Budget to \$453.5 million, which is an increase of \$3.8 million compared to the 2015-16 Estimated Actual.

- b) As there is an increase in the total budget for 2016-17 compared to the 2015-16 Estimated Actual, there is no requirement for any programs to be cut or significantly impacted.

**Agriculture and Environment Committee
Non-Government Question on Notice**

No. 9

Asked on 29 June 2016

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (HON L DONALDSON)—

QUESTION:

I refer the minister to page 6 of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries SDS, and I ask;

Can the Minister confirm how many regional jobs will be created by the additional investment into Queensland's biosecurity system?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The additional investment into Biosecurity Queensland will bolster employment in regional Queensland, from rural workers building wild dog fences to biosecurity officers on the ground delivering biosecurity responses. All of the investments we are making are ultimately aimed at supporting businesses and regional communities to overcome pests and diseases, which can threaten livelihoods and damage regional economies.

The Government's investment of an additional \$10.8 million over four years towards the implementation of the Queensland Biosecurity Capability Review recommendations demonstrates the Government's commitment to better biosecurity for all Queenslanders. Specific numbers and location of employees will depend on priorities that will be determined in consultation with stakeholders.

The investment of \$7.3 million into management of Panama disease tropical race 4 in bananas aims to protect our industry from this disease, which has had a devastating effect in the Northern Territory and internationally. Apart from the benefits to the broader economy the banana industry supports, up to 70 people will be directly employed in the response in 2016/17. Approximately 61 of these will be based in North Queensland with the remaining diagnostic and administrative roles based in South East Queensland.

The investment of \$5 million into wild dog barrier fences will support producers in central and south western Queensland. This is expected to leverage a further \$10 million which will create construction jobs, although it is not known how many jobs will be created at this stage. Further funding will employ 7.5 FTEs to support AgForce and local governments in Western Queensland with wild dog control.

Finally, the RSPCA contributes to employment in Queensland by ensuring that animal welfare is taken seriously. This protects our reputation and helps to satisfy requirements of our trading partners. The Government's annual grant to the RSPCA will be approximately doubled to \$500,000 for inspectorate services and this will enable the RSPCA to provide greater support to the Government's election

commitment to shut down cruel puppy farms. A further \$3 million to upgrade RSPCA facilities in Cairns and Townsville will also provide some local employment opportunities.

**Agriculture and Environment Committee
Non-Government Question on Notice**

No. 10

Asked on 29 June 2016

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (HON L DONALDSON)—

QUESTION:

I refer the minister to page 3 of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries SDS, and I ask;

Can the Minister please detail the responsibilities of the newly developed Office of Rural Affairs and its benefits to Queensland, and its scope of independence?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

In recognition of the importance of agriculture to rural and regional Queensland's prosperity, the 2016-17 Budget included \$77.9 million of funding for the Drought Assistance Package and Rural Assistance Package. These packages will comprehensively address recommendations made in the 2016 Rural Debt and Drought Taskforce Chairman's Report.

A new initiative included in the package is the establishment of an Office of Rural Affairs within the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF).

The Terms of Reference are currently being developed, with a recommendation for an external appointee to provide leadership, whose title could be Commissioner, and who has an understanding of agriculture and related issues in rural and remote Queensland.

The role and responsibilities of the office, and any commissioner appointed, will complement the capabilities of DAF and provide a focus on rural and remote Queensland agriculture and its contribution to regional economies.

The scope of works will be developed using information gathered as part of the Rural Debt and Drought Taskforce process, and other sources as required.

I expect that the Office of Rural Affairs will give a high priority to progress the implementation of a new Queensland Rural Debt Survey to provide up-to-date information to inform the Queensland Government's rural adjustment programs.

Documents tabled



Green paper on fisheries management reform in Queensland

JULY 2016



Queensland
Government

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From the Minister

Queensland has the great fortune of being home to some of the world's most unique and diverse aquatic ecosystems.

Fishing has always been important to our way of life. It was first practised here by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples of Queensland and coastal Indigenous groups in particular have strong cultural links to the sea and marine animals both as a source of sustenance and for their spiritual significance. Today, commercial fishers operate regional businesses along our coast that provide fresh local seafood to the community, and recreational and charter fishing in marine and fresh waters are treasured pastimes for many Queenslanders.

Our fish resources are also major tourism attractions and an important part of why people visit the Great Barrier Reef. With so much at stake, it is vital that we carefully manage these resources to ensure that they can provide future generations with the benefits we enjoy today.

In recent decades, pressure on our fisheries resources has escalated. We are now facing potential over-exploitation of these resources by all sectors, and this is causing increasing conflict and competition between users of the resources and concern in the wider community.

This, in combination with a growing population, coastal development and climate change, has brought challenges that our current fisheries management framework is ill equipped to deal with.

Managing our fisheries for the future will require change. We cannot continue to exploit our fisheries resources as we have been, or hope to ensure their long-term sustainability using the management tools of the past. Our limited fisheries resources should be shared and allocated in a way that provides the greatest economic value, while ensuring ongoing sustainability and greater resilience.

The Government's Sustainable Fishing election commitments clearly recognise the need for fisheries management reform. This green paper has been developed to start a discussion with Queenslanders on how to best manage access to, and use of, Queensland's fisheries resources into the future. The green paper outlines ten key areas that need reform to bring Queensland's fisheries management system into line with current best practice.

I believe the reform process offers tremendous opportunities for all. It will lead to greater resilience for Queensland's fish stocks and will make ours some of the world's best managed fisheries. Future generations will judge the success of the reforms by being able to enjoy the ongoing benefits of these resources. By maintaining fish stocks at higher levels, Queensland's marine ecosystems, including those in the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef, will also be healthier and more resilient, they will be more attractive to tourists visiting from interstate and overseas while also allowing indigenous, recreational and commercial fishers to enjoy better fishing experiences and, for commercial enterprises, more profitable businesses.

I encourage all Queenslanders to take advantage of this opportunity to have their say on the future management of Queensland's fisheries resources.

The Honourable
Leanne Donaldson MP

Minister for Agriculture
and Fisheries

Overview

Queensland's fisheries resources are highly valued across the community for their economic, social, traditional and cultural contributions to the state.

The common property and open access nature of fisheries resources means government has a responsibility to ensure they are protected from over-exploitation so they can be enjoyed in perpetuity and sustain viable industries in the long term. The aim is to not only conserve them but to balance their use to ensure fair and managed access.

Queensland's current fisheries management arrangements are based on approaches developed in the late 1970s. They are cumbersome, costly to administer, inflexible and increasingly less effective in ensuring the sustainability of the resources and the economic viability of the existing industry sectors.

Queensland needs an accountable, responsive, dynamic and transparent system of fisheries management to sustain and share our fisheries resources into the future and protect the broader marine environment. Ensuring that Queensland's fisheries resources are managed in an environmentally and socially responsible manner into the future will require change.

The purpose of this green paper is to outline the Government's vision for the management of wild harvest

fisheries, where we want to be and the proposed reforms that are required. Five goals and ten areas for reform have been identified. The Government acknowledges that specific fisheries management reform is required now and proposes that reforms are guided by the broader direction outlined in the green paper.

The green paper is a major step in developing a strategic policy to guide the management of Queensland's fisheries resources into the future. Feedback received in response to this green paper will be used by the Government to determine which initiatives are supported by the public.

The green paper delivers on the Government's election commitment to review the fisheries regulatory framework. The green paper also represents the Government's response to the independent review of fisheries management in Queensland conducted by MRAG Asia Pacific (the MRAG review).

Providing feedback on this green paper will not be the community's only opportunity to comment on how Queensland's fisheries resources are managed. Each reform proposal outlined will be developed further

through open and transparent stakeholder engagement and public consultation.

To have a say on the future of fisheries management in Queensland, visit www.daf.qld.gov.au.



What is a green paper?

A green paper is a document prepared on a specific policy area for discussion and comment from interested parties. Green papers do not commit the government or minister to the views expressed in the document or to a particular direction or course of action. They are designed to put forward concepts and options and to seek broad views on these proposals. The objective of the green paper is to arrive at a general consensus before developing future policy initiatives and changing legislation.

Fishing in Queensland

– setting the scene

Our fisheries are diverse and extend over 7000 kilometres of coastline, half of which is adjacent to the unique and remarkable Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The Government is responsible for managing these resources on behalf of all Queenslanders. Figure 1 provides a snapshot of Queensland's fisheries.

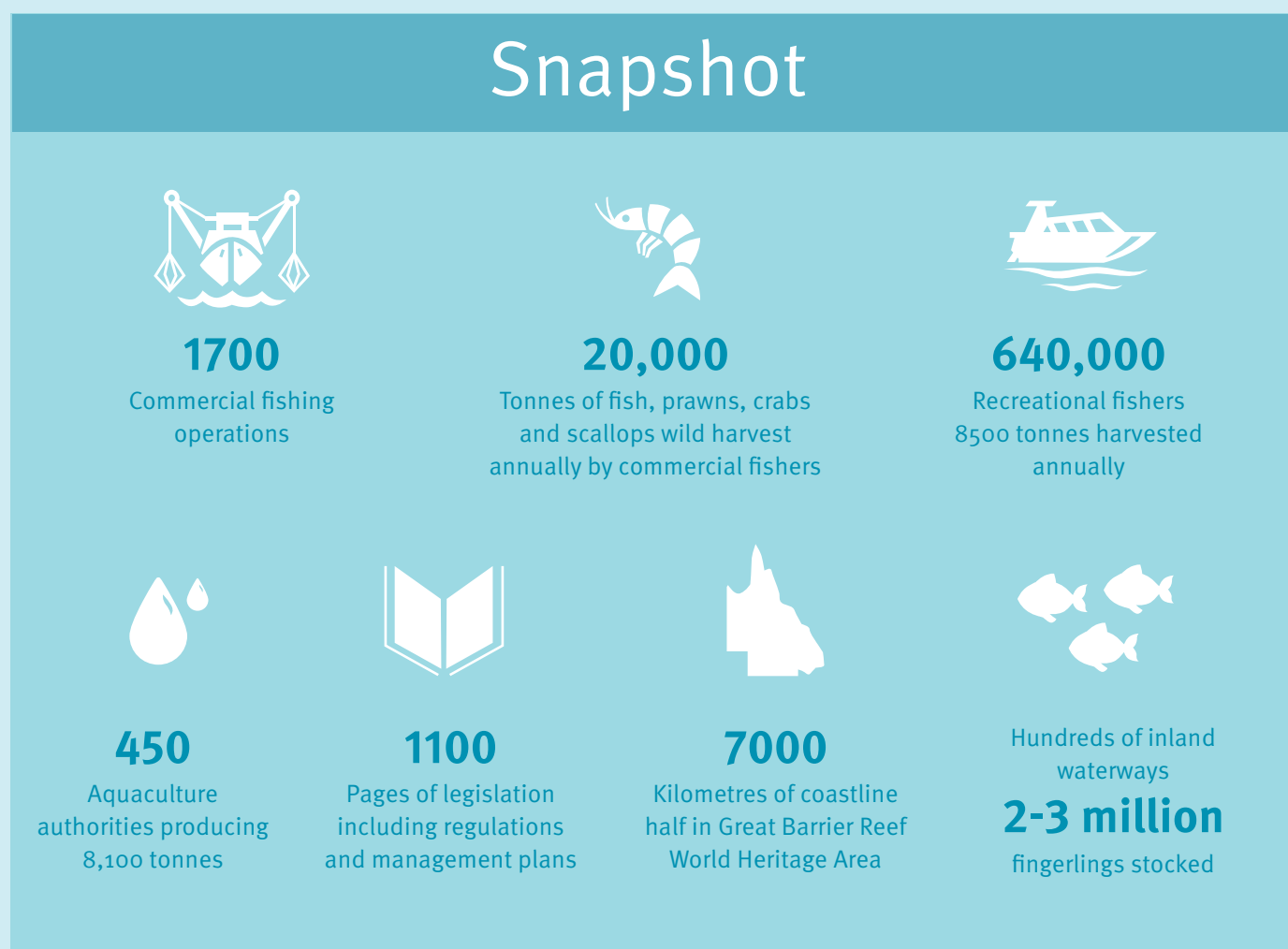


Figure 1 A snapshot of Queensland's fisheries



Indigenous fishing

Fishing is a significant traditional and cultural activity for many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in Queensland. Customary fishing rights are recognised under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth). The strong connection between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and fishing relates to nutrition, cultural connection to country and waters, ceremonial and social events, exchange, trade and barter, and passing knowledge of cultural and traditional fishing to successive generations. Catches of fish are often shared among the family, extended family and others not able to fish for themselves (such as the elderly). Indigenous fishing can also cross into the commercial and recreational sector, including aquaculture and tourism, but these activities are managed under Queensland legislation such as the *Fisheries Act 1994*, and not the Native Title Act.

Recreational fishing

Queenslanders are keen recreational anglers. Each year, more than 640,000 people fish for recreation, with anglers taking home around 8500 tonnes of fish, crabs and prawns. Recreational fishing continues to be a very popular outdoor activity. Queenslanders have a wide number of recreational fishing options ranging from freshwater fishing on stocked impoundments to offshore game fishing. Recreational and charter fishing are also important for tourism, attracting anglers from around Australia and the world. Recreational fishers make a substantial contribution to regional economies from products and services such as bait and tackle, accommodation and food. It is estimated that recreational fishing is worth around \$400 million dollars each year to the Queensland economy.

Commercial fishing

Commercial fishing in its various forms is one of the state's oldest and most regionally diverse primary industries. Queensland's commercial wild harvest fisheries generate around \$190 million in seafood production each year (beach price/at the wharf), which is around 10% of Australia's total seafood production. There are around 1700 licensed commercial fishing operations and 2300 licensed commercial fishers taking around 20,000 tonnes of fish, prawns, crabs and scallops annually. The prawn sector is the largest by volume and value (at around \$85 million), followed by reef fish and crabs.

Aquaculture

More than 450 aquaculture authorities produce 8100 tonnes of prawns, oysters and fish annually. In 2014–15, this generated in excess of \$120 million, bringing the total value of seafood production for Queensland to about \$311 million. The Queensland Competition Authority recently reviewed this sector and made a number of recommendations. To view the full report visit www.qca.org.au. The Government's response to the report recommendations is available at www.daf.qld.gov.au.

National and international context

While Australian fisheries are largely considered well managed in the global context, the international significance of the Great Barrier Reef means that we have a responsibility to meet higher standards of management. The cumulative impacts of coastal development, climate change, land-based run-off, fishing and tourism are significant and ongoing. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Outlook Report 2014 considered certain fishing activities as 'high to very high risk' to parts of the marine park's ecosystems if not managed to mitigate that risk.

In 2015 the Queensland and Australian governments released the *Reef 2050 long-term sustainability plan* to address the risks facing the Reef and to ensure its long-term conservation and ecological resilience. Reviewing the regulatory structure of fishing with a view to making changes that will demonstrate and ensure sustainability of Queensland's fisheries is an action in this plan.

Commercial fisheries also require accreditation from the Australian Government under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) to legally interact with species of conservation interest in Commonwealth areas, and to

export fish to overseas markets. The environmental performance of each fishery is assessed against sustainability guidelines to ensure direct and indirect impacts of the fishery on target species and the broader environment are being managed appropriately. Conditions and recommendations are applied to approvals to address outstanding issues and these need to be met for accreditation to be maintained. Recent accreditations have highlighted the need for reforms to mitigate the risks of fishing to target species and the broader ecosystem. In addition, they have shown the need to demonstrate that management arrangements are effective and being complied with.





Where we want to be

—a vision for Queensland’s wild harvest fisheries

The Government is seeking to redefine the strategic direction for how wild harvest fisheries will be managed into the future. Our vision for Queensland’s wild harvest fisheries is:

Fishing is a low risk to Queensland’s aquatic resources and these are shared to optimise benefits to the community.

All fishers, as well as non-fishers and the Government, have roles and responsibilities in achieving this vision. A key part of achieving this vision will be an understanding in the fishing community that entitlement to access fisheries resources is a privilege. It is coupled with the responsibility to use the resources sustainably and efficiently, protecting the aquatic environment and taking only their share.

The community needs to have confidence that the vision is being achieved. For that to happen, all

participants must step up and be accountable for improved outcomes, including maintaining social acceptability.

This vision for wild harvest fisheries management sets where we want to be. The proposed reforms required to get there will necessarily mean change. Figure 2 shows the current status of the key parts of the fisheries and what they are expected to look like during and after the reform process.

Once this reform process has been completed and the vision starts being achieved Queensland will

have some of world’s best managed fisheries resources. Our stocks will increase in size, providing greater resilience into the future but also supporting and providing better experiences for all fishers.

The reforms will address community concerns about the health of our fisheries, the impact of fishing on the environment and improve our reputation as a marine tourism and recreational fishing destination, while underpinning a profitable commercial fishing sector capable of supplying high quality seafood to the market.

Figure 2 What will the reform change?





Why reform fisheries?

The current management systems are not sufficient to achieve the vision for Queensland's fisheries.

There are a number of challenges with the current management system which need to be addressed in order to meet the vision:

- ▶ **Gaps in data and information** needed to support decision-making and equitable resource sharing arrangements.
- ▶ **No formal and transparent process** to identify or manage: fish stocks, resource allocation between sectors, issues and risks.
- ▶ **Inflexible management systems** that are unable to be adjusted as required to manage fishing, and an unclear decision-making process.
- ▶ **No structured engagement** between stakeholders and decision-makers.
- ▶ **A focus on preventing overfishing** as opposed to maximising benefits for both the community and the ecosystem.

Why is change needed now?

Without broad reforms it will be increasingly difficult for government to ensure and demonstrate sustainability. The profitability and social acceptability of fishing will continue to decline and competition for shared resources between sectors will increase with no clear process to resolve issues.

As well as the need for a modernised and responsive management system to effectively manage fisheries resources into the future, there are a number of specific drivers of change.

- ▶ The Government's Sustainable Fishing election commitments included a review of the regulatory structure of commercial fishing to ensure the sustainability of Queensland's fisheries, improved consultative arrangements with all stakeholders and adopting a fisheries resource allocation policy based on maximising the economic value Queenslanders receive from sustainable use of their fisheries resources.

- ▶ These commitments are also actions within the *Reef 2050 long-term sustainability plan*, which reflects the Queensland and Australian governments international commitment to UNESCO to manage and improve World Heritage values in the Great Barrier Reef.
- ▶ Fishery accreditations under the EPBC Act are at risk of being revoked if the commercial industry and the Government are unable to adequately address concerns about some of the undesirable impacts from commercial fishing activities, such as interactions with species protected under the EPBC Act. Without accreditation, fisheries will be unable to export product, could be illegally interacting with protected species and would be unlikely to continue to operate in the Great Barrier Reef area.

The Government has developed this green paper based on these commitments and consideration of the recommendations of the MRAG review and the community feedback to that review.

How we will get there

The Government is seeking to engage the community and industry to introduce practical and cost-effective reform of fisheries management in Queensland. The goals of fisheries management reform – “what we are seeking to achieve” are set out in Figure 3. Ten areas for reform have been identified to deliver across the five goals.

Figure 3 The 10 areas and 5 goals of fisheries management reform.

Vision					
Fishing is a low risk to Queensland’ aquatic resources and these are shared to optimise benefits to the community					
Reform Goals <i>What we are seeking to achieve</i>	Long-term sustainability and resilient stocks	Economic returns to the community and access for all users	Clear and unambiguous regulatory framework	Enhance systems to support fisheries management	Investment in fisheries management
10 areas for reform <i>How we will get there</i>	1. Managing target stocks to maximise overall benefits to the community, optimise catch rates, and secure community support for fishing				
	2. Managing impacts on ecosystem and non-target species, to maximise benefits to the community				
		3. Clarify resource-sharing arrangements between sectors, to provide certainty about resource use			
		4. Review authorities for access to the resources, to ensure equity and value for current and future generations.			
	5. Optimise decision-making framework, to ensure responsive, fit-for-purpose management arrangements				
	6. Adopt harvest strategies that have the flexibility to maximise benefits, for both the community and the ecosystem				
	7. Improved data and information to underpin best-practice management arrangements.				
		8. Improved consultation and engagement, to include stakeholders in the development and implementation of management arrangements.			
	9. Fisheries compliance upgrades to underpin all management objectives.				
	10. As the fisheries reform program develops, consideration will be given to how the costs of improved management will be met.				

Question:

Do you support the vision, goals and areas of reform proposed? If no, what is your proposed vision for the reform of Queensland's fisheries? What are the challenges in achieving this vision?

The process for reform

This green paper is a major step in developing a strategic policy that will guide the management of the state's fisheries resources towards achieving the vision and the reform goals. It seeks to promote discussion with industry and the community about the proposed reforms.

The Government is proposing a staged approach to introducing reforms (Figure 4). This will allow the Government to manage risks and expenses over time and ensure greater stakeholder participation as reforms are developed and implemented.

Reform is a long-term process and change will be difficult for some. However, continuing with the current management arrangements is not a viable option for something as important as our wild harvest fisheries.

Figure 4 The timeline for reform

Step 1—now	Step 2—2017	Step 3—2018	Step 4—2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Release the green paper proposing strategic direction and approach to management.▶ Consult with stakeholders on the proposed reforms.▶ Improve data collection and verification, education and compliance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Determine final strategic direction and approaches to management.▶ Commence consultation required to amend or create new legislation and regulations.▶ Implement reform programs for specific fisheries.▶ Develop, rollout and invest in enhanced programs related to data, education and compliance.▶ Establish consultation mechanisms with stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Complete consultation required to amend or create new legislation and regulations.▶ Continue to implement reform programs for specific fisheries.▶ Continue development, rollout and investment in enhanced programs related to data, education and compliance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ New management framework in place with clear direction, and decision-making processes.▶ Day-to-day fisheries management undertaken by the management agency based on the Government's strategic direction.▶ Ongoing review and refinement of management arrangements based on data and pre-agreed decision rules.

Major areas for reform



The following sections outline for each reform area:

- ▶ the nature of the issue
- ▶ the proposed reforms
- ▶ the questions we are seeking feedback on.

The proposed reforms are not in order of importance or action; they are interconnected and together create the full suite of reforms required to effectively manage our fisheries in the future.

Why 60%?

A review of scientific literature and discussions with scientists and fishery managers suggests managing stocks to achieve a 60% unfished population size is most likely to optimise benefits to the community. Rather than use targets such as greater than maximum sustainable yield or equivalent to maximum economic yield, the Government has proposed consultation on a specific target of 60% of the unfished population size for key fishery species. The intention is to be clear about the ideal size of fish stocks, as this will guide how these fish stocks are managed.

1. Managing target stocks

Ensuring that fisheries resources remain sustainable is the fundamental objective of Queensland's fisheries management system. In general, a stock is classified as 'sustainable' when 30–40% of the unfished population remains. Under this criterion, the vast majority of Queensland's fish stocks are considered to be sustainably fished.

However, maintaining a stock at 30–40% of the unfished population may not allow the greatest possible benefits to the community to be realised. For example, fish stocks at levels greater than that required to simply ensure sustainability would yield higher recreational catch rates, improve profitability in the commercial sector and provide greater resilience to adverse environmental conditions such as the effects of climate change.

The Government is proposing that targets for Queensland's fisheries resources move towards a higher

benchmark, a level equivalent to 60% of the unfished population for shared stocks or maximum economic yield for predominately commercial stocks. Stock-specific targets will be set in harvest strategies (see reform area 6—Harvest strategies). For some stocks it may not be feasible to set a stock target at this level in the first instance. Such cases will require management action that allows the stock to rebuild over time while still balancing social and economic objectives.

The scale of management will be set at the biological stock level where appropriate. The level of management activity that would apply to each fish stock will be based on risk and level of economic and social importance. This approach would mean greater controls and resourcing will be directed to iconic or important commercial and recreational species and to stocks that are considered to be at risk. Other stocks will continue to be managed in a precautionary manner.



Reform proposals:

- ▶ Set targets for key fish stocks in harvest strategies which move towards a level equivalent to 60% of the unfished population for shared stocks, or maximum economic yield for predominately commercial stocks, unless otherwise required to best meet objectives.
- ▶ Ensure the management that is applied to a particular stock is proportional to the level of risk to the stock, or the social and/or economic importance of the stock.

Questions:

- ▶ Do you agree that there is a need to rebuild fish stocks to higher levels?
- ▶ If yes, do you agree that 60% of the unfished population is a suitable target?
- ▶ If no, do you think current stock levels are suitable, or do you have an alternative proposal?



2. Managing impacts on the ecosystem, including non-target species

Managing the impacts of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem is a critical part of sustainable fisheries management and is necessary to maintain the social acceptance of fishing practices. Fisheries management agencies use ecological risk assessments (ERAs) to identify the broader ecosystem impacts of fishing activities. An ERA is an analysis of the best available information of fishery impacts on target and non-target species (e.g. dugong, turtles, dolphins and protected fish) and the broader ecosystem to determine the level of risk posed by the fishery. Species considered to be at 'high risk' will be prioritised for management action.

The Government has undertaken ERAs in several fisheries in recent years. However, ERAs are currently undertaken on an ad hoc basis, largely driven by a condition of a fishery accreditation under the EPBC Act. To ensure that the broader ecosystem impacts of fishing activities in Queensland are given adequate consideration and, where appropriate, remedial action is taken, the Government proposes that an ecological risk assessment policy be developed. This policy when implemented would aim to identify and minimise risks to the broader ecosystem from fishing. ERAs would be conducted for each fishery with those considered to be a high risk fishery undertaken first.



Reform proposals:

- ▶ Develop an ecological risk assessment policy outlining how the broader ecosystem impacts of fishing will be identified and managed.
- ▶ Ecological risk assessments will be prioritised according to those fisheries that are considered to present the highest risk to target and non-target species.

Question:

- ▶ Do you agree that a structured risk based approach should be used to guide management of the broader ecosystem impacts of fishing?
- ▶ If no, do you have an alternative suggestion for the management of the broader ecosystem impacts of fishing?

3. Resource sharing arrangements between sectors

The Government is committed to maximising the economic and social value that Queenslanders receive from the sustainable use of their fisheries resources. However, there is currently no clear process for considering allocation of access to fisheries resources between sectors. This has led to conflict between resource users with no obvious means for resolution. There is little doubt that commercial fishers want greater certainty to plan their operations and long-term investments. Likewise, recreational and charter fishers want greater recognition for the value angling brings to regional communities. Also, traditional fishers have little engagement in the current management system.

Allocation of an explicit access share to each sector within a fishery would provide clarity to resource users; however, there are challenges to this approach. They include how to set the allocation, what form it should take (e.g. a tonnage or proportion of a total allowable catch) and the data and information requirements necessary to appropriately set and manage to the shares (e.g. setting a total allowable catch and ensuring each sector only catches to their allocated share). Therefore, the Government needs to carefully consider if and when explicit allocation is appropriate and have the ability to better quantify the community benefits through alternative access-sharing arrangements.

It is proposed a fisheries resource-sharing policy be developed in consultation with stakeholders to provide clarity about how resources are accessed and shared between the different users. The decision-making

process must be fair, transparent and subject to clear rules and procedures. Sectoral allocation would ultimately be a decision of the Minister in order to reflect community interests in the use of resources for commercial and recreational purposes.

While it would be unreasonable to expect to eliminate all conflicts over the distribution of fisheries resources, adopting a stable and predictable access and allocation approach will help reduce the frequency of conflicts and provide guidance to help resolve them.



Reform proposals:

- ▶ Work with stakeholders to develop a fisheries resource-sharing policy based on maximising the economic and social value that Queenslanders receive from the sustainable use of their fisheries resources. It will consider as a minimum:
 - a transparent and repeatable process where reasons for decisions are clear
 - opportunities for stakeholder input
 - guidance on when and how to explicitly allocate fisheries resource access shares to sectors (recreational, commercial, Indigenous and non-extractive users)
 - the cost of the process takes into account the value (economic or social) of the fishery or resource
 - provision of a method to adequately quantify the benefits to the community of alternative resource-sharing arrangements
 - regional considerations will be taken into account but solutions must be cost-effective and capable of being implemented.

Questions:

- ▶ Do you support where appropriate the allocation of a specific share of the available annual catch to the major catching sectors (Indigenous, recreational and commercial)?
- ▶ If yes, do you agree that the allocation of such shares should be guided by the considerations outlined in this green paper?
- ▶ If no, what are some alternative options the Government should consider to address competition between sectors for the available annual catch?

4. Access to the resources

The Government does not manage fisheries resources directly, but controls access to the resources. Access is currently managed by a range of input controls (managing effort through gear restrictions and area and seasonal closures) and output controls (managing catch through catch quotas and bag limits). There is a widely held view that the number of commercial fishing authorities that provide access to some of Queensland's commercial fisheries is excessive, given the available resources. Similarly, the recreational bag limits that apply to some species are considered to be greater than what is reasonably required. Excess participation can cause low profitability in many fisheries, lead to conflict between resource users, result in pressure to compromise over conservation objectives and lead to recurring demands for increased access at the expense of other resource users.

The Government is committed to ensuring that the level of commercial and recreational fishing pressure directed at Queensland's fisheries resources is set at a level that meets agreed targets, is socially acceptable and is capable of supporting a profitable industry. For some fisheries this will require total fishing effort and/or participation to be reduced.

Across all sectors, future access arrangements will need to:

- ▶ adequately constrain catch to meet biological targets

- ▶ be appropriate for the species life history
- ▶ align with the biological, environmental, social and economic goals and objectives for the fishery
- ▶ be cost effective
- ▶ operate in a way that minimises the need for government intervention (e.g. by programs such as licence buybacks)
- ▶ determine that the duration of the access entitlement (e.g. fixed-term or permanent entitlements) meets changing community expectations and environmental goals
- ▶ provide incentives for investment, stewardship and innovation
- ▶ provide sufficient certainty for industry to make long-term investment decisions.

Indigenous fishing

Indigenous fishing rights are recognised under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth), and the *Fisheries Act 1994* contains some restrictions on the use of commercial fishing apparatus for customary fishing. Currently there is limited engagement between fisheries management and Indigenous communities due to a lack of engagement mechanisms and resourcing. It is proposed that a Queensland Indigenous Fishing Strategy be developed in consultation with key Indigenous groups. The purpose of the strategy

will be to explicitly recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities have distinct and unique fisheries interests, to improve options and opportunities for the involvement of Indigenous people in fisheries management and to enhance the participation of Indigenous people in commercial fishing enterprises under the *Fisheries Act 1994*.

Recreational fishing

While an increasing number of recreational fishers practice catch and release, recreational fishing activity can still affect the health of fish stocks, particularly for popular recreational species. Currently recreational fishing in Queensland is managed through a system of size and bag limits; however, over time this system has become increasingly complex with different size and bag limits applying to hundreds of species. The sheer number of species involved has made the current system confusing for recreational fishers.

The Government is committed to working with stakeholders to develop a simpler system of size and bag limits. This system will need to ensure that the level of recreational fishing pressure in Queensland is sustainable and allow recreational fishers to retain an appropriate number of fish. It must not facilitate the black-marketing of recreationally caught fish.

Commercial fishing

The Queensland Government is committed to maintaining a commercial fishing industry that is sustainable, socially responsible and profitable. Commercial access is currently permitted by an 'authority' under the *Fisheries Act 1994*. Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) give fishers secure access entitlements that reduce the race to fish and provide incentives to promote more sustainable practices. Under this system a total allowable catch (or effort) is allocated to fishers and trading of ITQ entitlements can occur. While a quota system is the Government's preferred management tool for high value species, it is not suitable for all fisheries or species, given the associated costs and complexity of quota management. The Government is therefore proposing a measured approach that assesses the best management model for each fishery, with a clear preference where feasible to use quota to constrain catch and improve economic viability.



Reform proposals:

- ▶ On a fishery-by-fishery basis, review and, if required, put measures in place to reduce total fishing catch and/or effort to meet agreed targets. For example, to move towards a target of 60% unfished population.
- ▶ Develop a Queensland Indigenous Fishing Strategy in consultation with key Indigenous groups.
- ▶ Work with stakeholders to develop a simpler and more responsible system of size and bag limits for recreational fishers.
- ▶ Develop a policy to guide any future allocation of commercial fishing access entitlements which considers all allocation options, including types of controls (e.g. quotas), the duration of the entitlement, as well as the use of market-based mechanisms in addition to catch and effort data.

Questions:

- ▶ Do you agree that fisheries management should be reviewed on a fishery-by-fishery basis to determine what management arrangements are required for each fishery?
- ▶ If yes, do you agree that a policy is required to ensure consistency in the management arrangements that are developed for each fishery, including the future allocation of commercial fishing access entitlements? If no, what alternative strategies do you propose to manage future access to Queensland's fisheries resources?

5. Decision-making framework

Queensland's fisheries resources are currently managed in accordance with the provisions of the *Fisheries Act 1994*. Under this Act, the majority of both strategic and technical decisions are made under subordinate legislation that is issued by the Governor-in-Council. Changing legislation is a necessarily complex process and consequently, amendments are not always achieved promptly in response to emerging issues. Also, there is no clear process providing for when and how fisheries management arrangements are reviewed.

To address this it is proposed to separate strategic from technical decision-making. Parliament and Government of the day (the Minister and Cabinet) should set the strategic direction for fisheries management on behalf of the community while the management agency should make the day to day decisions required to achieve the strategic direction (see Figure 5).

Figure 5 The proposed decision-making framework



To achieve this, the existing suite of legislation and regulation needs to be changed. Once implemented this would allow decision-making that responds in a timely way to relevant information, ensure decisions are taken at the appropriate levels and facilitate involvement from those who the decisions will affect. For example under the proposed model,

the Minister could decide sectoral catch-sharing allocations and approve harvest strategies while the management agency would make the technical decisions for the fishery (e.g. make decisions to increase or decrease total catch in line with the approved harvest strategy).



Reform proposals:

- ▶ Clarify the roles of the Parliament, the Government and the management agency in respect to decision-making.
- ▶ Provide capacity to respond to emerging fisheries issues in a timely manner.

Questions:

Do you agree that management arrangements for fisheries should be responsive to changing conditions (environment and fish populations) but within defined strategic parameters?

- ▶ If yes, do you agree with the proposal set out in the green paper?
- ▶ If no, do you have an alternative proposal?

6. Harvest strategies

A harvest strategy is a fisheries management tool used to integrate the biological, ecological, social and economic dimensions of fisheries management into a single framework. Harvest strategies will form a key element of Queensland's overall approach to promote the ecologically sustainable development of its fisheries resources. Some fish stocks (e.g. spanner crabs and coral trout) are already managed under a form of harvest strategy and have decision rules used to help set commercial quotas which are declared as required by the management agency.

It is proposed a harvest strategy policy be developed for Queensland fisheries. A harvest strategy would generally apply at a fishery level and have the following components:

- ▶ *operational management objectives*—the outcome being sought (e.g. maintain fish stock X at 60% unfished population, maintain high catch rates for fish stock X to maximise profitability)
- ▶ *performance indicators*—what will be measured and tracked over time (e.g. stock size estimates from the stock assessment)
- ▶ *target and limit reference points*—the desired and minimum acceptable level of a performance indicator
- ▶ *decision rules*—the agreed management responses when a target or limit reference point is reached.

The aim is for all fishers to understand the conditions that will initiate a review or change the management arrangements in a fishery. The process needs to be as 'automatic' as possible both in terms of certainty for fishery participants and any administrative and legislative processes needed to implement the change. The policy would also provide guidance on the range of management tools that could be used to constrain catch to the desired level.

Many stakeholders have expressed their desire for a regional approach to managing fisheries resources. Attempts at regional management to date have been ad hoc and not very successful, as stakeholders have remained polarised. The need for regional management and its role in meeting management objectives could be considered in the development of a fishery harvest strategy.



Reform proposals:

- ▶ Develop and implement a harvest strategy policy that would include:
 - the required components of a harvest strategy such as operational objectives, performance indicators, target and limit reference points and decision rules
 - the process by which a harvest strategy will be created, including how stakeholders will be engaged
 - a monitoring strategy to collect relevant data to assess the fishery
 - the process for assessing fishery performance against objectives.

Questions:

- ▶ Do you support the proposal to manage Queensland's fisheries resources in accordance with harvest strategies which will provide biological, social, cultural and economic targets for each of Queensland's fisheries?
- ▶ Are there any key issues the Government would need to consider in the development of a harvest strategy that have not been outlined in the green paper?

7. Data and information

Accurate and timely information is the foundation of sustainable fisheries management. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries collects a range of information from various sources including commercial fishing logbooks, quota reporting, recreational surveys and biological monitoring of priority species. Data collection is costly and the Government must ensure that any future programs are cost effective, practical and clearly linked to management needs such as informing a harvest strategy or understanding the risk posed by a fishing activity. While it is vital to have the right information, it is also essential for the public to have confidence in this information and trust that fisheries resources are being managed sustainably and in a way that is socially acceptable. The proposed reforms reflect a program of ongoing improvement. It is proposed to have a particular focus to improve catch and effort data collection from recreational and commercial fishers and collect economic information about both these sectors. A data collection strategy for Indigenous fishing will also need to be developed as part of the proposed Indigenous Fishing Strategy.

Recreational fishing

Programs for the collection of recreational fishing data currently include periodic statewide surveys and boat ramp surveys for regional catch and effort data. Reliable information on recreational catch and effort is needed for resource-sharing processes. It is also needed for input into stock assessments for recreationally important species to support harvest strategies and to understand the value of recreational fishing to the community. Future recreational data-collection programs will need to be designed to support these management needs.

Commercial fishing

Compulsory commercial catch and effort reporting has been in place since 1988. This logbook program has evolved over time to address fishery-specific requirements. It remains central to how fisheries are managed and is used in stock assessments. However, there are currently limited mechanisms available to validate commercial catch and effort reporting. Fishers are also required to record interactions with species of conservation interest, but there is no way to independently validate this data. Consequently, there is distrust in the accuracy of some commercial data.

To address these issues, the Government will work with industry to implement ways to improve the accuracy and timeliness of catch reporting, including programs to independently validate catch and effort data and records of interactions with species of conservation interest. The application of electronic monitoring technologies to perform these functions will be explored.

Economic data

Economic information has become increasingly important in fisheries management. It will be needed if Queensland's commercial fisheries are to be managed with a view to improving the economics of the industry. It is also needed to develop an understanding of the economic contribution of recreational fisheries.



Reform proposals:

- ▶ Progressively improve the accuracy and timeliness of catch reporting, including introducing programs to independently validate commercial catch and effort information and interactions with species of conservation interest.
- ▶ Introduce a robust and comprehensive system for checking, analysing and controlling the quality of incoming data.
- ▶ Future recreational data collection programs are designed to meet management needs.
- ▶ Develop a practical and cost-effective program to address gaps in economic data to better assess the impacts of management decisions.
- ▶ Develop a data collection strategy for Indigenous fishing as part of the proposed Indigenous Fishing Strategy.

Questions:

- ▶ Do you agree with the need for enhanced data collection and independent validation programs to improve the basis for fisheries management decisions in Queensland?
- ▶ Can you suggest some low cost mechanisms for enhancing data availability and collection, from recreational fishers, commercial fishers and for regional fisheries as a whole?



8. Consultation and engagement

The Government is committed to engaging with Queenslanders on issues relevant to the management of the community's fisheries resources by reinstating formal consultative arrangements with all stakeholders. Without a formal avenue to have a say in the future of their fisheries, stakeholders feel disconnected from the management system. Often there is no clear understanding of how new regulations have come to be or what they are trying to achieve and so there is little 'ownership' from stakeholders over management arrangements and therefore less incentive to comply with them. Equally, without a system for direct, formal communication with fishers, the fisheries management agency has no regular, structured process to canvass stakeholder views on priorities for management, monitoring, research and compliance. Strengthening the involvement of key stakeholders and the wider community must be a central element of the Government's approach to fisheries reform.

Careful consideration needs to be given to implementing a consultation and engagement model that will work for Queensland. With regards to co-management there also needs to be clarity around how stakeholders can participate in future decision-making processes, such as discussions on sectoral resource allocations and the development of harvest strategies. Stakeholder participation will need to be built into the relevant policies.

Before a decision is made for the long-term formal consultation framework (in terms of committees and membership), the government will undertake an interim consultation program to re-engage with stakeholders. This first step will be critical to the development of the fisheries reform program and to the rebuilding of relationships with and trust of stakeholders. This program will help determine the content of the more permanent consultation framework (expected in 2–3 years). In the interim, representative working groups and/or advisory committees will be established as required to provide advice to the management agency and the Government during the reform process.

Important elements in setting up such groups will be transparency in appointments and the use of independent experts where appropriate.

A more participatory model of fisheries management will require a comprehensive and dedicated effort by all involved. Greater industry and sectoral leadership in the recreational, commercial and Indigenous sectors will be necessary for improved participation, representation and accountability. The management agency will also need to provide greater guidance, clearer direction and better information, based on the proposed reforms, to support the adopted model.



Reform proposals:

- ▶ Design and establish a formal ongoing fisheries stakeholder engagement and consultation process.

Questions:

- ▶ Do you think it is important to establish an ongoing stakeholder engagement process to provide advice to Government and/or the management agency?
- ▶ If yes, what are the most important elements of such a stakeholder engagement process?
- ▶ If no, what is your alternative for the Government and/or the management agency to obtain advice from stakeholders?

9. Fisheries compliance

An effective compliance regime is essential in maintaining the integrity of the fisheries management system. While control and enforcement is critical to responsible fisheries management, good compliance is typically a balance between encouraging voluntary compliance and appropriate deterrence. This requires clear and simple rules, strong powers, effective sanctions and adequate compliance tools and resources.

Queensland's fisheries compliance program is undertaken by the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (QBFP), an organisational unit within the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. There are significant challenges in relation to the scale of QBFP activities—7000 kilometres of coastline, hundreds of inland fishing areas, 250,000 recreational vessels, 640,000 recreational fishers and more than 1700 commercial fishing operations.

Government agencies are continually seeking ways to deliver services with increased efficiency and effectiveness. In future years it is proposed that Queensland's fisheries compliance activities will be partly refocused to deliver an information-driven fisheries compliance program in which compliance resources are directed at areas of highest known risk. Compliance activities will be underpinned by sophisticated risk assessments. There will be greater use of surveillance, gathering of intelligence, forensic accounting and information management to ensure the limited resources available to QBFP are directed at the areas of highest risk. There needs to be an appropriate balance between an information-driven approach and an on-ground presence of QBFP officers.

It is also proposed that stronger inspection and entry powers and more significant penalties be introduced to combat illegal fishing activity, and in particular black-marketing of seafood. Black-marketing can affect sustainability because it is unquantified catch that undermines legitimate investment in the industry and poses potential health risks. Stronger powers will bring Queensland up to the recognised best practice arrangements of other Australian jurisdictions. The use of electronic technology will be maximised to detect possible non-compliant behaviour and to aid QBFP in achieving better outcomes with existing resources and funding.

To increase compliance with area closures, particularly within the Great Barrier Reef, it is proposed that the Government will progressively introduce vessel tracking across all commercial fisheries with tracking first being installed on those fisheries posing the highest risk.

Encouraging voluntary compliance remains a focus and it is proposed that this will be achieved through ongoing education and extension programs that discourage non-compliant behaviour. This approach will be greatly aided by the re-establishment of formal fisheries stakeholder engagement processes and the ongoing investment in electronic technology such as apps.



Reform proposals:

- ▶ Roll out a fisheries compliance program that is driven by information and in which resources are directed at areas of highest known risk.
- ▶ Introduce stronger compliance powers and more significant penalties for fisheries offences.
- ▶ Progressively adopt new technologies including electronic vessel tracking in Queensland commercial fisheries with roll out based on risk.

Questions:

- ▶ Do you support the introduction of stronger powers and more significant penalties for fisheries offences, particularly for combatting black marketing?
- ▶ Do you agree that education and extension programs improve compliance with fisheries regulations?

10. Resourcing

Effective fisheries management requires adequate resourcing. Approximately 60% of the current costs of fisheries management are funded by the community through general government revenue. Recreational and commercial fishers each contribute 20% (or approximately \$4.5 million per annum).

Recreational fishers contribute directly to the costs of fisheries management in two ways—the recreational use fee (RUF) and the Stocked Impoundment Permit (SIP) Scheme in freshwater systems.

The RUF is a \$20 fee charged to Queensland recreational vessel owners as part of their vessel registration fee and has been in place since 1994. However those recreational fishers who do not own a boat do not contribute directly to the costs of managing the state's fisheries resources, while those boat owners who do not fish recreationally are required to pay.

The SIP Scheme was introduced in 2000 and generates around \$1 million per year. Of these funds, 75% is distributed to stocking groups for the purchase of fingerlings or other activities aimed at enhancing the fishery in the Scheme's impoundments. Remaining funds are used for administration of the Scheme.

Commercial fishers and authority holders contribute to the costs of management through annual fees that are payable on the commercial fishing authorities they hold. These fees remain the lowest across all Australian jurisdictions at 2% of the industry's gross value of production.

Future funding arrangements

How fisheries management is to be funded in the long term is yet to be resolved. Moving to a fisheries management system that provides for sustainable, economically viable and resilient fisheries, as proposed by the reforms, will provide benefits for all sectors. As the fisheries reform program develops consideration will need to be given as to how the costs of improved management and reform will be met.



Reform proposals:

- ▶ As the policy develops consideration will need to be given as to how the costs of improved management and reform will be met.

Questions:

- ▶ Do you have any views on the best way to resource fisheries management?



Priorities for fisheries management reform

This green paper outlines the proposed strategic direction of fisheries management reform in Queensland but the proposed reforms will not in themselves result in immediate changes to fisheries management arrangements. It may take a number of years before the strategic reform process has been completed and any new legislative powers put in place. In the meantime however fishery-specific reforms must continue to occur to address existing sustainability issues and the declining economic viability of some commercial sectors. The Government is proposing that in lieu of finalising the strategic reform process, these fishery specific reforms will be guided by the direction proposed in this green paper. Learnings from these processes will be used to refine the strategic reform proposals, ensuring that future management arrangements are effective in the real world and supported by the community.

Indigenous

It is proposed to develop an Indigenous Fishing Strategy with a focus to raise awareness and respect for Indigenous fishing and identify opportunities for increased involvement in fishing related businesses.

Recreational

For recreational fishers to contribute to the proposed rebuilding of stocks to higher levels it is proposed to review current bag limits with a view to simplify current arrangements and reduce limits where required. Further, the type and number of apparatus that can be used by recreational fishers will be reviewed in addition to the size limits that apply to recreational and commercial fishers. In addition, the following Sustainable Fishing election commitments will be progressed –

- ▶ Develop a charter fishing action plan that recognises charter fishing as a distinct fishing activity with an economic benefit for the state, identifies tourism-related potential at a regional level and provides access to the resource with minimal regulation.
- ▶ Sit down with both recreational and commercial fishing organisations to investigate how a commercial net-free fishing area can be best instituted in Moreton Bay for the benefit of the region.
- ▶ Examine further net-free zones after an open application process.

Commercial

For commercial fishers to contribute to the proposed building of stocks to higher levels it is proposed to review fishery management arrangements with a view to further limiting total catch and effort. This may necessitate a restructure within many commercial fisheries that will likely lead to fewer operators fishing with more business certainty and higher profitability.

There are a number of fisheries that are priorities for significant reform, including the East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery, the Mud Crab and Blue Swimmer Crab Fisheries and the East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery. The management arrangements currently in place for these fisheries do not have sufficient capacity to control total catch. While reviews for these fisheries have been ongoing for a long time, no substantial reforms have been put in place. Without reform, these fisheries will continue to decline in economic viability and ability to demonstrate environmental sustainability.

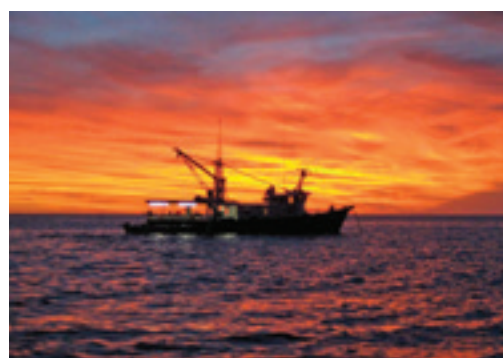


Reform proposals:

- ▶ Proceed with reforms to Indigenous, recreational and commercial fisheries that are required to achieve the proposed rebuilding of stocks to higher levels.
- ▶ Specifically commence reform of the commercial Crab, Trawl and East Coast Inshore Fin Fish fisheries using the direction set by this green paper.

Questions:

- ▶ Do you agree with the proposal to continue progressing required recreational, commercial and Indigenous fisheries reforms?
- ▶ If not, what are your priorities for fisheries management reform?



Have your say

The Government is seeking your feedback on the proposals outlined in this green paper on fisheries management reform in Queensland. You can provide your views on some or all of the reform proposals either online or through a written submission (by email or post).



Online – Complete the online survey at www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au



Email – Send your submission to fisheriesreview@daf.qld.gov.au.



Post – Send your submission to:

Fisheries Management Reform Green Paper
GPO Box 46
BRISBANE QLD 4001

The questions in each section relate to specific issues the Government would like feedback on. However, responses do not need to be limited to the questions posed.

The public comment period is open until midnight on 30 September 2016.

If you would like a hard copy of the green paper, please call 13 25 23.

Additional information is available – see www.daf.qld.gov.au

When making your submission, please keep in mind that information may be provided to persons making an application under laws providing for freedom of information. Personal details will not be included or published in any report.



Next steps

All feedback provided will be considered and taken into account in the development of a strategic policy that will guide the management of Queensland's fisheries resources into the future.

Note: The reforms in this green paper are designed to develop the strategic direction for how fisheries are managed in the future. Feedback on specific management arrangements related to a species or area are not being sought at this time.

Glossary

maximum sustainable yield: the maximum average annual catch that can be removed from a stock over an indefinite period under prevailing environmental conditions

maximum economic yield: the sustainable catch level for a commercial fishery that allows net economic returns to be maximised; generally more conservative (i.e. less harvest) than maximum sustainable yield

shared stocks: fish stocks harvested by more than one sector
(e.g. the recreational and commercial sectors)

sustainable stock: generally a stock that is at, or greater in size than, 30-40% of the unfished population. The stock is at a size where it can breed successfully and sustain fishing pressure

unfished population: the size a fish stock would be if it had not been fished



Agriculture and Environment Committee

Estimates Hearing

22 July 2016

Document Tabled:

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Queensland
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Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
Biosecurity Queensland

Livestock standstill

Important
information for
people dealing
with livestock



Be FMD aware. Be FMD prepared.



Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
Biosecurity Queensland

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD)

A guide for
livestock owners



Be FMD aware. Be FMD prepared.





Old McDonald has a farm.

Let's keep it that way.

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a serious and highly contagious viral disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals. This includes livestock such as cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, deer and camelids including camels, llamas and alpacas. Horses are not susceptible to FMD.

FMD is a notifiable disease.

Under Queensland legislation, if you suspect FMD in any susceptible animal species, you **MUST** report it to **Biosecurity Queensland** on **13 25 23** or contact the **Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline** on **1800 675 888**.

The Queensland Government's commitment to FMD prevention and preparedness activities reflects the significance of livestock industries to our state's economic livelihood as well as the serious socio-economic impacts an FMD outbreak would have for Queensland and Australia.

Well established plans are in place to deal with an FMD incident but surveillance for early detection and early reporting of the disease are critical in reducing the spread and severity of a disease outbreak.

FMD has not occurred in Australia since 1872, but it is common in some countries in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and South America.

Our proximity to Asia and increased globalisation intensifies the risk of virus introduction from infected countries to Australia.

The social and economic impact of an FMD outbreak would be severe and prolonged. A recent study estimates that a large, multi-state FMD incident could cost Australia more than \$52 billion in lost revenue over 10 years.

Queensland has implemented a Biosecurity Preparedness Program (FMD) to:

- Reduce the risk of FMD being introduced into Queensland, establishing and spreading.
- Improve surveillance and early detection of FMD.
- Increase capability and capacity to effectively and efficiently respond in the event of an outbreak of FMD.
- Minimise any adverse socio-economic impacts on industry, government and community.

The three-year program will enhance Queensland's ability to manage an incident in partnership with industry should it occur. While the program finishes on 30 June 2016, biosecurity preparedness will remain an integral part of ongoing business activities of Biosecurity Queensland.

About FMD

FMD can cause severe disease, including formation of blisters in the mouths and around the hooves of affected animals that may result in lameness and excessive salivation (particularly in cattle), reduced milk yield and fever.

Be FMD aware. Be FMD prepared.



Queensland
Government



The disease is extremely contagious and multiple animals within the herd are likely to be affected at the same time, however they may not show the same clinical signs.

Prolonged or permanent production losses may result and in some young stock, the disease may be fatal.

It is important for livestock producers to regularly check their livestock and contact their veterinarian immediately if they notice clinical signs consistent with FMD in their livestock. Suspected cases of FMD must also be reported to Biosecurity Queensland.

The only way to confirm a diagnosis of FMD is through laboratory testing of samples taken from livestock by a veterinarian.

Preventing FMD

1. Keep illegally imported food products out of Australia.

Australia has very strict quarantine laws and border surveillance systems in place to restrict FMD-susceptible animals or products from being imported.

However, illegal importation of contaminated food, in particular salted or cured meats, is considered to be the most likely means by which the virus will be introduced to Australia.

Travellers returning from overseas need to be vigilant about what they bring into the country and must declare all food, plant material and animal products on arrival in Australia to ensure they are free of pests and diseases. They must also declare if they have visited a farm while overseas.

2. Pig owners should not feed their animals swill. Pigs must not be fed food or food waste containing meat, meat products, milk or milk products not of Australian origin or anything that has been in contact with these items – the FMD virus may remain in food even after chilling, freezing, or inadequate cooking. This food is prohibited pig feed, commonly known as swill.

Examples include table scraps, restaurant waste, bakery products such as meat pies, sausage rolls, and bacon and cheese rolls, Caesar salad containing bacon pieces,

milk or milk products not of Australian origin or illegally imported into Australia, and untreated used cooking oils and fats. Swill feeding is illegal in all states and territories of Australia.

Swill may contain serious viruses that could infect pigs through feeding – this includes FMD. Swill feeding restrictions apply to all pigs, including pet pigs and pigs kept by hobbyists.



3. Report swill feeding. Businesses that prepare and sell food have a responsibility to dispose of food waste appropriately. Food waste that would be considered swill should be placed in an appropriate waste bin for collection and disposal.

If you suspect that swill is being supplied to pig owners or pigs are being fed swill, contact Biosecurity Queensland. Your report will be treated as confidential. Penalties for swill feeding, supplying swill or collecting swill with the intent to provide to a piggery are significant and can include fines and imprisonment.

More information

Call **13 25 23**

Visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au/FMD for more information and free FMD awareness and training materials.

This little piggy went to market.

Let's keep it that way.

Food and food waste containing meat, meat products, milk or milk products not of Australian origin or anything that has been in contact with these items must not be fed to pigs. This food is prohibited pig feed, commonly known as swill.

Swill feeding is illegal in all states and territories of Australia. Swill may contain serious viruses that could be passed on to pigs through feeding – this includes foot-and-mouth disease (FMD).

The FMD virus may remain in food even after chilling, freezing, or inadequate cooking. It is considered the virus is most likely to be introduced to Australia through the illegal importation of meat or dairy products.

Food that must not be fed to pigs

Household, commercial or industrial food waste including restaurant food, butcher shop waste and bakery waste that contains meat, meat products, some dairy products or anything that has been in contact with these items.

Examples include table scraps, meat pies, sausage rolls, bacon and cheese rolls, Caesar salad with bacon pieces, deli meats, milk or milk products not of Australian origin or illegally imported into Australia, and untreated used cooking oils and fats.

Anything that has been in contact with swill via collection, storage or transport in contaminated containers such as meat trays and takeaway food containers.

These restrictions apply to ALL pigs, including pet pigs and pigs kept by hobbyists.

Information for food outlets



Be FMD aware. Be FMD prepared.



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Government**



Dispose of food waste responsibly

Businesses that prepare and sell food have a responsibility to dispose of food waste appropriately. Food waste that would be considered swill should be placed in an appropriate waste bin for collection and disposal.

Why is feeding swill to pigs banned?

While feeding discarded or downgraded food substances to pigs is popular because it reduces feed costs and may be seen as waste reduction, the practice could cost Australia its livestock market.

Australia is currently free of FMD but food containing this virus may be illegally imported into Australia undetected by quarantine. FMD is a serious and highly contagious viral disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals, including livestock such as pigs, sheep, cattle, goats, deer and camelids including alpacas, llamas, and camels.

Swill feeding is considered to be the cause of the devastating 2001 outbreak of FMD in the United Kingdom where over six million animals were destroyed during eradication of the disease. FMD is the single greatest disease threat to Australia's livestock industries. A severe outbreak has been estimated to cost the national economy around \$52 billion in revenue losses over 10 years.

Swill can also contain other significant viruses not currently found in Australia.

Report swill feeding

If you suspect that swill is being supplied to pig owners or pigs are being fed swill, contact **Biosecurity Queensland** on **13 25 23**. Your report will be treated as confidential. Penalties for swill feeding, supplying swill or collecting swill with the intent to provide to pig owners are significant and can include fines or imprisonment.

Want to know more?

Call **13 25 23**

Visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au/FMD

Make sure your pigs eat the right thing.

Don't feed swill.

Do not feed pigs food or food waste containing meat, meat products, milk or milk products not of Australian origin or anything that has been in contact with these items. This food is prohibited pig feed, commonly known as swill.

Swill feeding is illegal in all states and territories of Australia. Swill may contain serious viruses that could be passed on to pigs through feeding – this includes foot-and-mouth disease (FMD).

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Examples include table scraps, meat pies, sausage rolls, bacon and cheese rolls, Caesar salad with bacon pieces, deli meats, milk or milk products not of Australian origin or illegally imported into Australia, and untreated used cooking oils and fats.

- Anything that has been in contact with swill via collection, storage or transport in contaminated containers such as meat trays and takeaway food containers.

These restrictions apply to ALL pigs, including pet pigs and pigs kept by hobbyists.

Information for pig farmers, hobby farmers and those who own pigs as pets



Be FMD aware. Be FMD prepared.



**Queensland
Government**



What food can be fed to pigs?

You can feed pigs:

- Milk or milk products either of Australian origin or legally imported into Australia for stockfeed use.
- Bakery scraps or vegetable scraps that do not contain and have had no contact with meat or meat products.
- Fruit, vegetables, cereals and eggs.
- Meals made from meat, blood or bone and purchased from a reputable produce store or feed merchant. When purchasing pig feed, look for feed produced by an accredited feed supplier under a quality assurance program such as FeedSafe® visit: www.sfmca.com.au
- Rendered animal fat and treated cooking oils.

If in doubt, you should not feed any food other than commercially available pig feed to your pigs.

Why is feeding swill to pigs banned?

While feeding discarded or downgraded food substances to pigs is popular because it reduces feed costs and may be seen as waste reduction, the practice could cost Australia its livestock market.

Australia is currently free of FMD but food containing this virus may be illegally imported into Australia undetected by quarantine. FMD is a serious and highly contagious viral disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals, including livestock such as pigs, sheep, cattle, goats, deer and camelids including alpacas, llamas, and camels.

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outbreak has been estimated to cost the national economy around \$52 billion in revenue losses over 10 years.

Swill can also contain other significant viruses not currently found in Australia.

Dispose of food waste responsibly

Businesses that prepare and sell food have a responsibility to dispose of food waste appropriately. Food waste that would be considered swill should be placed in an appropriate waste bin for collection and disposal.

Report swill feeding

If you suspect that swill is being supplied to pig owners or pigs are being fed swill, contact **Biosecurity Queensland** on **13 25 23**. Your report will be treated as confidential. Penalties for swill feeding, supplying swill or collecting swill with the intent to provide to pig owners are significant and can include fines or imprisonment.

What should I do if I notice unusual clinical signs in my animals?

If you see clinical signs in your animals consistent with FMD, immediately contact your local veterinarian. In addition, **Biosecurity Queensland** MUST be notified on **13 25 23** or through the Emergency **Animal Disease Watch Hotline** on **1800 675 888**. Information on FMD clinical signs is available from our website.

Want to know more?

Call **13 25 23**

Visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au/FMD



DO NOT FEED SWILL



Pigs **MUST NOT** be supplied food waste containing:

- Meat or meat products
- Milk or milk products not of Australian origin
- Anything that has been in contact with these items.

This food waste is known as swill. Swill feeding is illegal as it could pass on serious diseases to pigs, including foot-and-mouth disease (FMD).

Dispose of food waste responsibly

www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au/FMD

CALL **13 25 23**



**Queensland
Government**

**Pigs will eat
almost anything.**

**Make sure they
eat the right thing.**



www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au/FMD

CALL **13 25 23**



**Queensland
Government**

Agriculture and Environment Committee

Estimates Hearing

22 July 2016

Document Tabled: *By LEAVE*

By: *Hon DONALDSON*

No. *2*





Media release

Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries
The Honourable Leanne Donaldson

Johne's disease management in Queensland

Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Leanne Donaldson today announced a new approach to Johne's disease management in Queensland.

"As of 1 July 2016, the Queensland Government will no longer regulate livestock entry into Queensland or quarantine properties infected with Johne's disease," the Minister said.

"The change is in step with the national review of Johne's disease management and aligns Queensland with the approach in other states and territories.

"It also responds to continued calls from Queensland producers for more flexibility.

"We are adopting a market-driven, industry-managed and risk-based approach, giving power to producers to make on-farm biosecurity decisions."

Minister Donaldson said the Palaszczuk Government was committed to grow Queensland's prosperous livestock industries.

"To do that we need to adapt to changing market conditions.

"It is a sensible, prudent change to help our producers and has broad industry support because it will provide greater flexibility for producers looking to expand their businesses.

"Queensland will continue to maintain a low prevalence of Johne's disease through this new risk-based approach."

Queensland's Chief Veterinary Officer Allison Crook said most producers will not have to change the way they manage Johne's disease and operate their business.

"Johne's disease will remain a notifiable disease and producers must contact Biosecurity Queensland if they suspect Johne's disease on their property," said Dr Crook.

"As Johne's disease is mostly spread through the movement of livestock, producers will need to ensure they are fully aware of the health status of the animals they purchase.

"High risk animals from southern states where Johne's disease is more common should only be purchased with a comprehensive written health statement detailing the animal's health.

"Guidelines for safely purchasing livestock and making Johne's disease risk-based decisions are available at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au (<http://www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au/>).

"A surveillance program will be run by Biosecurity Queensland to monitor compliance with the new framework and the steps producers are taking to meet their general biosecurity obligation relating to Johne's disease."

Minister Donaldson said the government would continue to work with and support industry in adjusting to the new Johne's disease framework.

For more information on Johne's disease in Queensland visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au

(<http://www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au/>) and for animal health statement templates visit www.farmbiosecurity.com.au
(external site) (<http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/>).

Media: 0448 994 172

Agriculture and Environment Committee

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22 July 2016

Document Tabled:

By:

No.

MR LAST *BY LAMAR*

3



**Minister for the Environment and
Heritage Protection, National Parks
and the Great Barrier Reef**



Agriculture and Environment Committee

Pre-hearing Questions on Notice and Answers



AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. Gov-1

asked on Wednesday, 29 June 2016

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON DR S MILES)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister please outline the total staff numbers and employee expenses for 16/17 FY for agencies in your ministerial portfolio, compared to the previous 4 financial years?

ANSWER:

In relation to the Environment and Heritage Protection and Great Barrier Reef sections of my portfolio, I can advise that for the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP):

Staffing numbers and employee expenses are detailed in Table 1.

Table 1

Financial Year	Staff numbers (FTE)	Employee expenses (\$)*
2012/13	1,038.22	117.655 million (Audited actuals)
2013/14	1,034.40	102.829 million (Audited actuals)
2014/15	1,047.02	98.598 million (Audited actuals)
2015/16	1,118.44	108.279 million (Unaudited actuals)
2016/17	1,109 (as per SDS)	112.300 million (Budget estimate as per SDS)

*Actual amounts include all employee expenses and redundancy payments.

Employee expenses for the 2012-13 period to the 2014-15 period are as per the EHP annual audited financial statements for these periods.

Estimated employee expenses for the 2015-16 period are based on unaudited interim actual expenses, with the 2015-16 financial year not finalised.

Budgeted employee expenses for the 2016-17 period are as per the 2016-17 EHP Service Delivery Statement.

All Staff numbers indicated represent Full Time Equivalent (FTE).

The Staff numbers indicated for 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 are as published in their respective Annual Reports.

The Staff number indicated for 2015-16 is based as at fortnight ending 24 June 2016 while the Staff number for 2016-17 is per the 2016-17 EHP Service Delivery Statement.

In relation to the National Parks section of my portfolio, I can advise that for the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing (NPSR):

Staffing numbers and employee expenses are detailed in Table 2.

Table 2*

Financial Year	Staff numbers (FTE)	Employee expenses (\$)*
2012/13	1,019.69	86.222 million (Audited actuals)
2013/14	1,020.68	83.659 million (Audited actuals)
2014/15	1,067.76	82.546 million (Audited actuals)
2015/16	1,060.61	87.829 million (Unaudited Actuals)
2016/17	1,101 (as per SDS)	91.689 million (Budget estimate as per SDS)

*Actual amounts include all employee expenses and redundancy payments.

Employee expenses for the 2012-13 period to the 2014-15 period are as per the NPSR annual audited financial statements for these periods.

Estimated employee expenses for the 2015-16 period are based on unaudited interim actual expenses, with the 2015-16 financial year not finalised.

Budgeted employee expenses for the 2016-17 period are as per the 2016-17 NPSR Service Delivery Statement.

All Staff numbers indicated represent Full Time Equivalent (FTE).

All figures include a portion of corporate and executive staff.

The Staff number indicated for 2015-16 is based as at fortnight ending 24 June 2016 while the Staff number for 2016-17 is per the 2016-17 NPSR Service Delivery Statement.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. Gov-2

asked on Wednesday, 29 June 2016

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON DR S MILES)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister please indicate any changes in fees and charges for the 16/17 FY?

ANSWER:

In relation to the Environment and Heritage Protection and Great Barrier Reef sections of my portfolio, I can advise that for the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection:

Regulatory and non-regulatory fees and charges are increased annually from 1 July in line with Government policy, which is generally by the Government Indexation rate of 3.5%, and rounded in accordance with the department's current rounding policy.

The 2016-17 Budget also includes the flow-on effect of revenue measures introduced in 2014-15, specifically an increase in higher-risk resources industry environmental licencing fees.

There are two new revenue measures included in the 2016-17 budget, for Connect Voluntary User fees and Regulated Waste Tracking fees.

Connect Voluntary User Fees – The Government is introducing a voluntary user fee for customers to transact using the department's new online licensing system – "Connect". Users of Connect will be able to lodge applications, make payments and manage licenses and permits online which will streamline these processes and deliver significant efficiency gains to customers. The fee will be 7% of the existing regulatory fee for the relevant service up to an upper limit of \$70. An amount of \$750,000 was estimated to be collected in 2016-17.

Regulated Waste Tracking – The Government is amending the fees associated with the tracking of regulated waste. The changes include an increase in the fee to submit paper waste movements. The changes also include a reduction in the cost for online submission of waste movement and the requirement to pay for each movement when submitting bulk data. The changes are intended to address inequities in the current fee structure and will ensure a fairer contribution to the cost of regulation by the waste industry. The proposed changes are as follows:

The existing paper waste tracking certificate fee was \$3.30 per certificate in 2015-16 and this will increase to \$5.30 per certificate upon the introduction of the "Connect" system. Online submission of individual waste movement certificates through the

“Connect” system will cost \$3.10, a savings of \$0.30 per certificate. A new fee for bulk electronic upload of waste movements is being introduced at a cost of \$2.20 per movement. This will replace the existing once-off “*Approval of Ways*” fee which was \$430.60 in 2015-16. The changes under this revenue measure are estimated to collect \$732,000 in 2016-17.

In relation to the National Parks section of my portfolio, I can advise that for the Department of National, Parks, Sport and Racing (DNPSR):

Regulatory and non-regulatory fees and charges are increased annually from 1 July in line with Government policy, which is generally by the Government Indexation rate of 3.5% with some minor exceptions where approval has been provided to use an alternative index, or in some cases approved to set market based rates. Fees are rounded in accordance with the department’s current rounding policy.

Since 1992, fees for stock grazing permits (Schedule 3 of the Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2006) are revised annually using an indexation methodology linked to the Queensland Cattle Market Index (made available by the National Livestock Reporting Service within Meat and Livestock Australia). These fees are consistent with those fees charged by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) for stock grazing permits under the provisions of the *Forestry Act 1959*. For the 2016-17 financial year, the indexation process has resulted in a stock grazing permit fee increase of 46% on the existing fee schedule.

Apiary site permit fees (Schedule 3 of the Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2006) are indexed based on the movement in the three-year rolling average of the Capilano Quota Honey Price Schedule. The Bee Industry Consultative Committee has previously indicated its support for this indexation methodology. For the 2016-17 financial year, the indexation process has resulted in a fee increase of nearly 20% for apiary sites on State forests and national parks.

To support graziers and apiarists, DNPSR is working with DAF to help offset these fee increases, providing financial relief through DAF’s drought assistance program.

There were no new revenue measures included in the 2016-17 Budget for National Parks.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. Gov-3

asked on Wednesday, 29 June 2016

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON DR S MILES)—

QUESTION:

Page 4 of the Service Delivery Statement refers to reforms to the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. Can the Minister please provide a progress report on how the department is implementing the Government's commitment to reinstate the conservation of nature as the object of the Act?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is committed to conserving Queensland's natural and cultural heritage in which our national parks are so important. To achieve this, a number of amendments to the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA) were recently passed by the Queensland Parliament. These amendments were essential to rectify changes made by the previous government that eroded the purpose of the NCA.

One of the key amendments reinstated the conservation of nature as the primary object of the NCA while continuing to recognise the involvement of Indigenous people in the management of protected areas in which they have an interest under Aboriginal tradition or Island custom. The amendment ensures a balance between the primary purpose of our protected area estate (to conserve nature) and the many valid uses that occur within the estate such as recreation, tourism and educational.

A number of other amendments were made to support the object of the NCA. In part, these amendments included reinstating the former national park (scientific), conservation park and resources reserve classes of protected area to clarify that these areas have different purposes and management requirements.

This Government has also directed the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing and the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection to work towards developing a Protected Area Strategy for expanding and effectively managing the protected area estate. These agencies are jointly exploring innovative strategies to move coverage of the protected area estate towards the target set through the Convention on Biological Diversity, while ensuring continued effective management of the estate.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. Gov-4

asked on Wednesday, 29 June 2016

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON DR S MILES)—

QUESTION:

Page 4 of the Service Delivery Statement refers to ecotourism facilities proposals. Will the Minister please advise the status of “Springbrook Manor” Expression of Interest process?

ANSWER:

A number of submissions were received as a result of the Expression of Interest (EOI) process for the former Springbrook Mountain Manor.

The Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing (the department) has had detailed discussions with two preferred proponents.

Both proponents undertook their own due diligence, and commissioned detailed property inspections which revealed a number of aspects of the property which were in a state of repair requiring more than their anticipated capital investment in order to achieve compliance with current building and commercial health standards, and contemporary accommodation standards.

The proponents both found that the unanticipated capital investment could impact on the financial viability of their proposals and therefore subsequently revised their submissions to seek a capital contribution by the State to enable the property to be fit for purpose.

Recognising a capital investment by the State was not originally proposed in the EOI, the department is considering a broader more collaborative arrangement that will deliver the best social economic and environmental balance for the future use of the property.

As a result, the department will continue to consult with the proponents, and any other parties interested in managing the property with a view to achieving an environmentally appropriate tourism or healthy lifestyles vision for the property.

The Government remains committed to seeking an outcome that is both compatible with the high conservation values of the adjacent world heritage area and supports the future prosperity of the Springbrook community.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. Gov-5

asked on Wednesday, 29 June 2016

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON DR S MILES)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister outline the extent to which fees and charges associated with environmental authorities issued under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* have changed over recent years, and the basis for that change?

ANSWER:

Fees under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* are contained in the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2008* (Regulation). Since the Regulation commenced in 2009, the fees schedule has been amended a number of times. The majority of these amendments are the annual indexation increase to fees as required under Government policy using the approved Government indexation factor. The indexation of fees provides a mechanism understood by the community and industry to maintain price relativity, aiding the Government in formulating the State and departmental budgets.

There have been two more significant changes to fees for environmental authorities in recent years.

In 2013, changes made to the fee regime meant the annual fees were only payable once an environmental authority had been approved, and the total amount was based on the fee for the highest risk activity for the site.

In 2014, annual fees for higher risk resource activities were increased by 200%, with the change being implemented over four years.

In addition, application fees were changed so that 30% of the annual fee is payable as part of the application fee for more complex assessments. This change affected both applications for a new environmental authority and applications to amend an environmental authority.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. Gov-6

asked on Wednesday, 29 June 2016

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON DR S MILES)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister detail significant environmental approvals in the previous 12 months, and summarise the conditions applied to those approvals?

ANSWER:

Mount Isa Mines Copper Smelter Extension

On 7 October 2015, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) approved an amendment application authorising an extension for the operation of the Mount Isa Mines Copper Smelter. The amended environmental authority (EA) contained six new conditions and one amendment to an existing condition intended to reduce contaminants in air emissions from the site and requiring increased engagement with the public, including public access of real time air quality data via their website and a smart phone application.

Hail Creek Coal Mine Transition Project

On 7 October 2015, EHP approved the amendment application for Rio Tinto's Hail Creek Transition Project, which authorises continuation of coal mining via underground and open cut mining methods to the east of the existing mine whilst maintaining production of up to ten million tonnes of coal per year. The conditions of the EA require delivery of biodiversity offsets to manage impacts to koala habitat in conjunction with the project's Commonwealth environmental approval, and include requirements for management of subsidence impacts.

Rolleston Coal Mine Expansion

The EA amendment for the expansion of Glencore's Rolleston Coal Mine was approved on 8 October 2015. The expansion will increase production to 15 million tonnes per year of coal. The EA includes additional conditions for biodiversity offsets and watercourse diversions; and to protect surface water and groundwater values as well as those in the neighbouring Albinia National Park.

Red Hill Coal Mine

On 23 November 2015, EHP approved the EA for BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance's Red Hill Mining Lease Project. The project is a new underground coking coal mine producing up to 14 million tonnes per year of coal. The project is located adjacent to the Goonyella Riverside open cut and Broadmeadow underground coal mines. The conditions of the EA include management of subsidence impacts, mine water management and offset requirements.

Baralaba North Coal Mine Continued Operations Project

On 1 February 2016, EHP approved the amendment application for Cockatoo Coal's Baralaba North Continued Operations Project. The project expands open cut coal mining to the north of the existing mine up to 3.75 million tonnes of product coal per year and introduces coal processing activities. Conditions applied to the EA include management of wastes from processing activities, protection of wetlands, surface and ground waters and biodiversity offset requirements.

Carmichael Coal Mine

The EA for Adani's Carmichael Coal Mine was approved on 2 February 2016. The mine involves open cut and underground mining of up to 60 million tonnes per annum of product coal in the Galilee Basin. Approximately 140 conditions were applied to the EA including 13 conditions regarding the provision of environmental offsets, and management and research of the endangered Black-throated Finch at the site. There are 27 conditions for the protection of surface waters and the Carmichael River and 16 conditions to manage impacts to groundwater values including the Doongmabulla discharge springs. The EA includes 15 conditions stipulating the rehabilitation requirements and outcomes.

Abbot Point Growth Gateway Project

The assessment functions of EHP for the Abbot Point Growth Gateway Project were finalised in early 2016. The Growth Gateway project involves dredging 1.1 million cubic metres in situ of seabed, which will then be placed on land adjacent to the existing Abbot Point Coal Terminal 1. This will allow for future expansion at the port, including Adani's Terminal 0 project involving the construction of a second trestle and increase of port capacity to 120 million tonnes per year. Conditions applied by EHP to the various approvals require management of impacts from dredging including limitations on dredge activities and water quality release limits; restrictions on construction activities; and protection of the nearby Caley Valley wetlands.

Jemena NEGI pipeline project

On 9 December 2015, EHP approved an EA for the Jemena QLD gas pipeline project. This pipeline is part of the larger North-East Gas Interconnector Pipeline project which will link the Amadeus Pipeline at Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory to the Carpentaria Pipeline at Mount Isa in Queensland. This will allow movement of gas from the Northern Territory gasfields to the east coast gas market in Queensland. The section of the North-East Gas Interconnector Pipeline within Queensland is 165 kilometres in length. A total of 76 conditions were applied to the EA for protection of air, noise and water environmental values, protection of biodiversity values, as well as management of wastes and rehabilitation requirements.

Regulating flaring events for QCLNG project (QGC LNG facility)

To address ongoing community concerns and complaints caused by flaring events, on 11 March 2016 EHP amended the QGC LNG facility EA by imposing changes to the existing flaring conditions. These changes strengthen the regulation of flaring by placing a limit on the number and the length of time that flaring events occur outside of normal operating conditions.

‘Bubble Licence’

On 25 May 2016, EHP made a decision to cancel an outdated EA, covering 25,000km² and numerous different projects, known as the ‘bubble licence’. Nineteen separate EAs were issued in its place to ensure that the management of environmental values is easier and project specific. EHP is now working with Santos to insert contemporary outcome focussed conditions onto the new EAs to ensure best practice environmental management.

Santos Gas Fields Development Project

On 11 August 2015, EHP provided recommendations to the Coordinator-General for consideration in assessing and reporting on the Santos GLNG Gas Field Development Project Environmental Impact Statement. The recommendations related to conditions stated in the Coordinator-General's report that will impact on the content and conditions of any future EA for the project. Comments provided by EHP related to the management of coal seam gas water, brine and salt, and Matters of State Environmental Significance and offsets conditions. EHP also recommended conditions to protect environmental values of water, land, biodiversity and air.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. Gov-7

asked on Wednesday, 29 June 2016

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON DR S MILES)—

QUESTION:

Can the minister outline how he has ensured the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service has sufficient resources to manage new national parks?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring that the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service has sufficient resources to manage new national parks. This Government recently committed to new funding of \$35.9 million over four years to support the management of lands recently gazetted as protected areas, and a number of others acquired as future protected areas, and currently awaiting gazettal.

This new funding will provide for up to 31 full time front line ranger positions over the next four years as well as the necessary capital and operational expenses to establish and effectively manage these new areas. Conservation, fire and pest management activities on these lands will receive an appropriate funding boost in line with contemporary protected area management needs. Improved camp grounds and visitor facilities will contribute to increasing tourist numbers which will have a positive economic benefit to local and regional communities.

Our national parks are the cornerstone of the State's tourism industry, so recognising that our outstanding natural and cultural heritage values require a strong commitment to properly funded ongoing management will ensure they stay that way.

National parks (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal land) – NP (CYPAL) will benefit as part of this funding injection. A further 10 officers will be recruited by 2020 to support the joint management of existing NP (CYPAL) and additional parks which will be created or transferred during the period.

In addition, the Government is developing a long-term strategy for expanding and effectively managing Queensland's protected area estate into the future. This demonstrates the current Government's commitments to ensuring the iconic natural and cultural values of Queensland's protected areas will be conserved for the benefit of all current and future Queenslanders.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. Gov-8

asked on Wednesday, 29 June 2016

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON DR S MILES)—

QUESTION:

How has the government responded in this budget to the decline in South-East Queensland koala population documented by the UNIQuest research report?

ANSWER:

The Government is committed to maintaining viable and healthy populations of koalas in Queensland and is now taking action in response to the findings of the recently released UniQuest report.

The purpose of the report was to determine the conservation status of koala populations in South-East Queensland. It found that koala densities had undergone a significant decline over the last 20 years – an estimated 80 percent decline in Koala Coast sites and 54 percent in sites in Pine Rivers.

In response to this decline, the Government is now investing \$12.1 million over the next four years to support a range of measures to conserve and protect koalas. This will be followed by an ongoing yearly funding commitment of \$2.6 million.

The first step in this initiative will be to appoint a panel of experts to explore ways to better protect koalas. The panel will determine the most appropriate and realistic options to do this; calling on the latest science and practice in areas including population dynamics, behavioural science, captive breeding and disease management.

It is clear from the UniQuest report that the Government cannot just assume that the programs put in place over the last 20 years can stop the current decline in koalas.

The Government's \$12.1 million funding provides the opportunity to look to the future; bringing together fresh perspectives and the latest science to secure Queensland's koalas and their habitat.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. Gov-9

asked on Wednesday, 29 June 2016

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON DR S MILES)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister outline each instance he has issued a Stop Work Order under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*, and his reasons for doing so?

ANSWER:

As the Minister responsible for the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* (Heritage Act), I have made two Stop Work Orders to ensure places with potential state heritage significance are not destroyed before that value is understood.

Willard's Farm in Birkdale

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) received an application to have Willard's Farm in Birkdale considered for entry in the Queensland Heritage Register (the Register). Soon after on 15 July 2015, I responded to community concerns and advice from EHP that the place could be destroyed before the Queensland Heritage Council (the Heritage Council) had an opportunity to decide whether it belonged in the Register. The Stop Work Order protected Willard's for 40 business days, allowing EHP time to finish investigating its heritage values and make a recommendation to the Heritage Council. EHP recommended the place be entered in the Register for being rare, early evidence of government-promoted agricultural settlement in Queensland.

On 8 September 2015, the Heritage Council considered the application and decided not to enter Willard's in the Register, relying on assurances from the owners of the property that the farm buildings would not be demolished for six months to allow the investigation of conservation options. In a positive outcome, Redlands City Council purchased the property in February 2016 to conserve the historic farm buildings on behalf of its community.

Highgate Hill Houses

Responding to serious local community concern, on 10 February 2016, I made a Stop Work Order for what were called the Highgate Hill Houses at 18, 20 and 26 Jones Street. This group of three houses had been approved for demolition despite subsequently having been listed by the Brisbane City Council in a planning instrument for the protection of buildings constructed prior to 1911. I exercised my power under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* (the Heritage Act) to ensure a proper heritage assessment was carried out. EHP made an application under the Heritage Act to have

the houses considered for entry in the Register. Before making a recommendation, EHP fully investigated the history and fabric of the houses, known as *Keddington Villa*, *Abbey* and *Araluen*.

EHP recommended that the houses not be entered in the Register because though they demonstrated the residential suburban development of inner Brisbane from the 1880s, in being so changed from their original state, they did not meet the threshold for State-level heritage significance. As the State's independent advisor on heritage matters, the Heritage Council met on 11 April 2016 to consider the application and decided not to enter the houses in the Register.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. Gov-10

asked on Wednesday, 29 June 2016

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON DR S MILES)—

QUESTION:

It was reported in the media that Government commissioned work on the costings associated with Great Barrier Reef protection indicated a figure of \$16 billion. Can the Minister please indicate whether this figure is accurate and how it was calculated?

ANSWER:

I tasked the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce (Taskforce) with providing advice about the best possible approach to meeting the government's water quality targets as set out in the *Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan* (Reef 2050 Plan). This included providing advice on the costs and effectiveness of proposed programs, interventions or instruments to achieve the targets.

As the secretariat of the Taskforce, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) contracted with Alluvium Consulting Australia (Alluvium) in February 2016, to assist the Taskforce undertake this work.

The total costs for achieving the targets in an early draft were around \$16 billion. The preliminary results were then further reviewed by the Taskforce and senior government officers. In particular, the reviewers noted that the draft results had failed to include progress towards the targets from 2009 to 2013. The analysis is being adjusted based on this advice and are expected to be considerably lower.

The costings work used reef source data from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines to model pollution reduction from changes to biological and physical processes. The total tonnage of pollution reduction was multiplied by the average cost per tonne of reduction for a number of policy solutions and interventions in each catchment. The results were then fed into an economic model which calculated the most cost efficient method to meet Reef 2050 Plan targets in each catchment.

Expert economists are currently undertaking a second peer review of the study and a final report will be released shortly.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. Non-Gov-1

asked on Wednesday, 29 June 2016

A NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON S MILES)—

QUESTION:

The 2016-17 service area highlights includes:

“Encourage and support community groups, through a new Community Sustainability Action Grants program (\$4 million per year over three years) to support community-based delivery of environmental, conservation and heritage protection activities and outcomes.”

and I ask, can the Minister:

- a) advise will this grants program provide funds for purchase of koala habitat, as the koala conservation work listed in the service areas highlights for 2016-17 does not appear to include any funding specifically for purchase of at-risk koala habitat areas; and
- b) provide the total budgeted funding in 2016-17 for the purchase of at-risk koala habitat areas and list priority areas for purchase?

ANSWER:

a) The Palaszczuk Government’s Community Sustainability Action grant program will invest \$12 million over three years to committed individuals and community groups which seek to conserve Queensland’s natural and built environment, and protect our unique wildlife.

The community-driven program will support eligible recipients to undertake locally-based projects that inspire real change in their communities and their neighbouring environment.

The Government is investing in projects that support:

- Restoring, conserving or improving public access to Queensland’s heritage-listed places, including the development of Conservation Management Plans.
- Improving the condition of Queensland’s unique wildlife and natural environment through a range of activities including weeding and revegetation, removal of litter and marine debris, and pest animal control.

- Investigating the issues affecting Queensland's koala populations, and developing and trialing methods to encourage protection of this iconic species.

Projects which seek to restore or extend koala habitat are likely to be eligible to receive funding under the grant program.

The grant program will also support research into mitigating the threats affecting Queensland's koala populations.

b) Please refer to my media statement, I released on Tuesday 7 July, 2017 (Attachment 1), where I outlined an additional \$12.1 million over four years and ongoing funding of \$2.6 million a year for koala protection.

In response to the recently released South East Queensland Koala Population Modelling Study, EHP announced in May 2016 that it will be undertaking a review of its koala conservation and protection programs.

A key element of this review will be the guidance and input from a panel of experts. This panel will draw on the latest science and best management practice to determine the most appropriate and realistic options to address the current decline in koala populations.



Media release

Minister for Environment and Heritage
Protection and Minister for National Parks and
the Great Barrier Reef
The Honourable Steven Miles

Queensland bolsters koala protection with \$12 million budget boost

Tuesday, June 07, 2016

Queensland bolsters koala protection with \$12 million budget boost

Koala conservation is set to get a boost in the upcoming State Budget after Environment Minister Steven Miles announced an extra \$12.1 million over four years and ongoing funding of \$2.6 million a year for koala protection.

Dr Miles said the funding followed the findings of a University of Queensland report, led by Assoc. Prof. Jonathan Rhodes and commissioned by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, which identified protection measures over two decades had failed to curb the decline in koala populations.

"Koala numbers in south east Queensland are showing no signs of stabilising despite considerable efforts to address their decline over the past 20 years," Dr Miles said.

"We now have an additional \$12 million on the table to assist the protection of koalas. The Government will establish an expert panel to address the findings of the UQ report.

"They will help us with the application of this funding to achieve the best conservation outcomes for koalas."

Dr Miles said the funding was a lifeline for koalas in decline in the State's south-east.

"The UQ report found koala population densities in suburbs south east of Brisbane known as the Koala Coast, dropped around 80% between 1996 and 2014," Dr Miles said.

"To Brisbane's north, in the Pine Rivers region, koala population densities fell around 54% over the same period.

"Each year around 340 koalas are taken to koala hospitals in south-east Queensland due to car hits and a further 100 as a result of dog attacks."

Assoc Prof Rhodes welcomed the funding commitment from the Palaszczuk Government.

"The expert panel to be set up by the Government now needs to provide clear and independent advice about where this money should be best invested to ensure threats to koalas are reduced," he said.

"Those decisions should be evidence based, transparent, and maximise the benefit for koalas per dollar spent'.

Dr Miles said he would bring together the experts in coming weeks to kick-off discussions on how best to move forward to better protect koalas.

"These talks will be instrumental in determining the most appropriate actions for koala conservation," Dr Miles said.

"Members from various areas of conservation, science and land use planning bring considerable experience to the table, and I look forward to receiving their advice on where to from here, both in terms of longer term direction and short term actions.

"Last year, the Palaszczuk Government accepted a recommendation by an independent scientific panel to list the koala as vulnerable across Queensland after the LNP refused to accept that advice, and even axed the jobs of koala specialists employed by EHP.

"The Queensland Government takes the protection of the State's iconic and much loved koalas very seriously," he said.

ENDS

MEDIA 0412 393 909

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE**

No. Non-Gov-2

asked on Wednesday, 29 June 2016

A NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON S MILES)—

QUESTION:

The 2016-17 service area highlights includes:

“Implement alternative management strategies for problem urban flying-fox roosts (\$2.7 million over three years).”

and I ask, can the Minister advise:

- a) what the alternative management strategies are; and
- b) if the strategies include the lethal removal of problem roosts and all other ‘alternative strategies’ that may be under consideration by the Government?

ANSWER:

- a) The management of urban flying-fox roosts is a matter for local governments.

The 2016-17 Budget allocates \$2.7 million over three years to improve our understanding of flying fox behaviour, particularly little red flying-foxes. The evidence gathered will be used to improve and inform how urban flying fox roosts are managed. The CSIRO have been engaged to undertake the research into flying fox behaviour which will include satellite tracking of flying foxes and how to best restore potentially suitable, alternative roost sites for flying-foxes. It will also review the effectiveness of local government flying-fox dispersal activities.

The work is expected to commence in Charters Towers Regional Council.

- b) Lethal removal will not be among the alternative strategies to be considered.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE**

No. Non-Gov-3

asked on Wednesday, 29 June 2016

A NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON S MILES)—

QUESTION:

Referring to SDS page for 2016-17, can the Minister advise:

- I. if the Department intends to improve upon the new measure of the 'Percentage of declared crocodiles of concern removed within three months of declaration' – [the target is currently listed at 75 per cent];
- II. if not, can the Minister advise how the target of 75 per cent was decided upon and is there a scientific base to the figure?

ANSWER:

- I. The 75% target is a new measure.
- II. The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) advises that the 75% target is reasonable for removing declared 'crocodiles of concern'. This is based on EHP's experience in crocodile management. Any changes to the target will be based on scientific evidence as gathered through the new budget measure for improving crocodile management in Queensland.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. Non-Gov-4

asked on Wednesday, 29 June 2016

A NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON S MILES)—

QUESTION:

With reference to staffing levels of the Department, can the Minister advise:

- I. the number of frontline park rangers and park managers that were employed in 2015-16 and their locations;
- II. the number of frontline park rangers and park managers to be employed in 2016-17 and their locations;
- III. if the number of frontline regional positions have been reduced over the 2015-16 period [including location]; and
- IV. if the number of frontline regional positions is expected to be reduced over the 2016-17 [including location?]

ANSWER:

- I. I can advise that the number of frontline park rangers and park managers employed in the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), within the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing (NPSR) as at 24 June 2016 was 739.51 FTE. The FTE figures and their locations are listed in Attachment 1.
- II. 21 new frontline ranger positions will be created in 2016-17 to deliver park management at several recently created national parks. This number will progressively increase up to 31 new frontline ranger positions over the next four years. These new frontline ranger positions will be positioned in various locations across the State, at existing and new bases, in proximity to new protected areas. Planned locations for new rangers include the Mackay Highlands, Clermont, Townsville, Princess Hills, Undara, Littleton, Taroom, Currawinya, and across South-East Queensland.
- III. I can advise that within the QPWS, there has been no reduction in the number of frontline regional positions over the 2015-16 period.
- IV. The number of frontline regional positions is not expected to reduce over the 2016-17 period.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. Non-Gov-4

asked on Wednesday, 29 June 2016

Work Centre Location	Full Time Equivalent
Adavale	1.00
Airlie Beach	7.00
Atherton	10.00
Ballandean	5.79
Bambaroo	5.00
Bartle Frere	5.00
Binna Burra	5.00
Birdsville	1.00
Blackdown	2.00
Bribie Island	9.00
Bundaberg	11.00
Bunya Mountains	3.00
Burleigh Heads	7.60
Byfield	4.70
Cairns	21.80
Canungra	5.00
Cape Tribulation	7.00
Cardwell	7.00
Charleville	6.00
Charters Towers	6.00
Chillagoe	8.00
Clermont	4.00
Coen	5.18
Cooktown	9.80
Coulson	5.00
Culgoa	2.00
Daisy Hill	3.80
Dalby	7.00
Dalrymple Heights	4.00
Diamantina Lakes	1.39
Dixie	2.00
Dunwich	8.00
Fraser Island	36.00

Gatton	3.00
Gladstone	9.00
Green Island	1.00
Gympie	9.00
Hughenden	4.00
Hungerford	2.00
Ingham	9.00
Inglewood	2.00
Innisfail	12.00
Jardine River	3.00
Kairi	6.00
Kenilworth	9.60
Kennedy	1.00
Kingaroy	7.00
Lake Eacham - Yungaburra	15.60
Lakefield	6.79
Laura	3.00
Lockhart River	2.00
Longreach	2.00
Lytton	7.00
Mackay	5.00
Magnetic Island	1.00
Maleny	15.00
Mandalay	12.00
Manly	21.09
Mareeba	2.00
Maroochydore	20.10
Maryborough	16.00
Mitchell	2.00
Monto	6.00
Moreton Island	7.00
Mossman	8.00
Mount Garnet	2.00
Mount Isa	6.84
Mount Surprise	5.24
Mundubbera	5.00
Nelly Bay	6.00
Nerang	5.00
Parkhurst	12.40
Portsmith	37.60
Rainbow Beach	18.00
Rolleston	5.00
Roma	6.00
Rosslyn	11.00
Samford Village	9.80

Seventeen Seventy	2.00
Slade Point	3.00
Springbrook	7.72
Springsure	1.00
Stanthorpe	2.00
Tambo	2.00
Taroom	2.00
Tewantin	24.18
Thargomindah	3.80
The Gap	27.20
Toowoomba	19.00
Townsville	19.00
Tregony	5.00
Urangan	5.78
via Dingo	2.00
via Jundah	2.00
via Longreach	1.50
via Winton	3.00
West Burleigh	21.20
Woodgate	1.00
Total	739.51

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. Non-Gov-5

asked on Wednesday, 29 June 2016

A NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON DR S MILES)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister advise:

- I. the number of national parks and 'protected areas' for which management plans have been completed since the Minister was appointed Minister;
- II. the total number of national parks and 'protected areas' and their locations for which management plans are yet to be completed; and
- III. the number and locations for each the Minister and his Department is planning and has budgeted for completion in 2016-2017?

ANSWER:

- I. Since my appointment, 175 protected areas have had management planning instruments completed.
- II. As at 30 June 2016, the following two new national parks and nine other protected areas were dedicated in 2015 and 2016:
 - Littleton National Park;
 - Rungulla National Park;
 - Girringun Conservation Park;
 - Dinden Conservation Park;
 - Noosa Conservation Park;
 - Girringun Resources Reserve;
 - Rungulla Resources Reserve;
 - Littleton Resources Reserve;
 - Canyon Resources Reserve;
 - Homevale Resources Reserve; and
 - Belmah Resources Reserve.

These are yet to have management planning instruments completed. Consistent with the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing's (the department) policy of having management planning instruments in place for new national parks and protected areas within one year of dedication, management statements will be completed for these parks.

In addition, a number of protected areas with joint management arrangements are yet to have completed management planning instruments:

- 22 national parks (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land);
- 4 resources reserves (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land);
- 2 national parks (North Stradbroke Island Indigenous Joint Management Area); and
- 6 conservation parks (North Stradbroke Island Indigenous Joint Management Area).

These instruments are subject to formal consultation and endorsement by Traditional Owners the timing of which can be outside the control of the department.

- III. The department has planned and budgeted for approximately 20 protected areas to have management planning instruments completed in 2016-2017. The locations have not yet been finalised.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. Non-Gov-6

asked on Wednesday, 29 June 2016

A NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON S MILES)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister advise:

- I. how the Department intends to continue with the acquisition of land to progress its target of 17 per cent of total land of Queensland protected given budgeted funds for this purpose appear to have been more than spent; and
- II. can the Minister outline the scientific reports, commissioned research and environmental data which has been undertaken (including references) to support the level of 17 per cent of total land area?

ANSWER:

- I. The Queensland Government is committed to expanding Queensland's protected area estate, on both State-owned and privately managed lands.

Apart from some declarations in Cape York as part of ongoing tenure resolutions with traditional owners, no significant new land was dedicated as national park under the previous LNP government. In contrast, the Palaszczuk government has dedicated and declared an additional 617,106 hectares of national and regional parks and 10,430 hectares of nature refuges. These additions have increased the protected area estate by 0.36% to 7.92%.

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has been allocated \$5 million for protected area acquisitions in 2016–17, and is currently investigating a number of strategic acquisitions, which, if purchased, will make a contribution towards expanding Queensland's protected area estate.

NatureAssist, which has been operating since 2005, is the government's primary mechanism for securing new nature refuges – a class of private protected area complementing state-owned parks.

I am pleased to clarify that in the recent State Budget the government announced \$11.7 million over four years to support the management of nature refuges under the NatureAssist program. This is ongoing funding, providing the program and its voluntary participants with certainty.

- II. Australia is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, which is a global treaty on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. The *Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity 2011-2020*, agreed to by Parties to the Convention, includes strategic goals and biodiversity targets. One of the key targets under the Plan includes the effective conservation of at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas through equitably managed, ecologically representative, and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. Non-Gov-7

asked on Wednesday, 29 June 2016

A NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON S MILES)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the geo-engineering works and rehabilitation and plantings etc required to stop the stated 460,000 tonnes of silt/year from Springvale Station flowing into the Normanby River, can the Minister detail:

- i. the estimated total costs of the works;
- ii. what studies and estimates were undertaken as to the full cost of rehabilitation and the timelines for the works to be completed prior to acquisition of the property?

ANSWER:

- i. The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) will be working with potential partners to leverage corporate and philanthropic funding to help support the remediation costs. Some work has been done through the Cape York Water Quality Improvement Plan to estimate gully remediation costs.
- ii. A range of research studies have been undertaken on Springvale and the surrounding Normanby catchment by Griffith University, in partnership with Cape York NRM and other local stakeholders and landholders. This included a sediment budget which was completed in 2013 which estimated the contribution of sediment from different sources in the catchment. This work showed that Springvale was responsible for 40% of all gully erosion within the catchment.

More recent work has been undertaken during development of the Cape York Water Quality Improvement Plan to identify priority areas for gully remediation in the Normanby catchment. This work was done with scientific experts from Griffith University and used Lidar data to identify gullies that would be most appropriate for remediation.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE**

No. Non-Gov-8

asked on Wednesday, 29 June 2016

A NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON S MILES)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister advise on the contract and payment timelines for purchase of Springvale Station at Lakeland for \$7 million, given the budget for land acquisition for 2015-16 would appear to be all but spent (SDS page 13) and the budget for the coming year is listed at \$5.345m - or are funds going to be provided from the National Parks budget, from the \$6 million listed DNPSR SDS page 4 service area highlights?

ANSWER:

The sale contract between the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) and the vendor of Springvale Station was executed on 23 March 2016 and settled on 25 May 2016.

EHP funded the \$7 million Springvale Station purchase from departmental budget allocations for capital expenditure, including the acquisition of land, set aside in the 2015-16 Budget.

No funding was sourced from the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing budget to purchase this property. The 2015-2016 Estimated Actual of \$7.246M for capital purchase of land, buildings and infrastructure (SDS page 13) includes the purchase of Springvale Station.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. Non-Gov-9

asked on Wednesday, 29 June 2016

A NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON S MILES)—

QUESTION:

I refer the minister to page 6 of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and the commitment to protect Queensland's flora and Fauna in the SDS, and I ask;

Taking into account Bio Security Queensland's knowledge of the spread of Navua Sedge and evidence that the pest is moving into drier areas, what steps is the Department of Environment taking to address this issue in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture?

ANSWER:

Responsibility for managing biosecurity threats rests with the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries.

Navua sedge is an invasive plant species but is not declared as a prohibited or 'restricted' invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (Biosecurity Act).

Both the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) and the Department of National Parks, Sport and Recreation take their land management obligations seriously. This includes limiting the spread of navua sedge on their lands. Both Departments work collaboratively with Biosecurity Queensland on an ongoing basis in the interest of maintaining ecosystem health. This includes providing expert advice on potential environmental impacts of invasive plant and animal species, as necessary, to assist Biosecurity Queensland with administering the Biosecurity Act.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. Non-Gov-10

asked on Wednesday, 29 June 2016

A NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON S MILES)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister please confirm how the rates for small rural councils previously paid by station owners will now be paid following large scale acquisitions of further National Parks, the reforms of the Nature Conservation Act and the purchase of Springvale Station?

ANSWER:

As part of building a robust protected area system, the Queensland Government's *Investing in our Environment* program acquires properties of significant conservation value for addition to the protected area estate, while allowing for all Queenslanders and visitors to our State to enjoy these areas through recreation and tourism.

In certain situations, rates are no longer paid after the acquisition of a property that is proclaimed as protected area. Protected areas contribute to, and are vital components of, the economic well-being of many communities, attracting tourists and providing local employment. In almost all cases, the economic benefit derived from the use and flow-on benefits of the State's protected areas far exceeds the relatively low rates levied on pastoral leases.

The acquisition of Springvale Station means that a range of threatened species and ecosystems will be protected for future generations. Also, as one of the biggest contributors to sediment run-off to the Great Barrier Reef in the Normanby catchment, Springvale Station provides an unprecedented opportunity to improve the health of the Reef. Management and rehabilitation of Springvale Station into the future will bring economic benefits to the local community.

The intention is for Springvale Station to become a protected area. However, the rates on Springvale Station will continue to be paid until at least October 2017 under a sublease with the previous owner.

With respect to the recent reforms through the commencement of the *Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016*, there were no amendments to the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* that will impact on rates.

Questions taken on Notice at hearing and Answers



AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**ESTIMATES HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE NO. 1**

asked on Friday, 22 JULY 2016

DR ROWAN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON DR S MILES)—

QUESTION:

For the 129 new mine site mining approvals discussed in Question on Notice No. 636, can the Minister advise:

- a) the locations and names/projects of these mining approvals; and
- b) how many of these approvals were for sites in Great Barrier Reef catchments?

ANSWER:

I'm advised that the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has been unable to complete its compilation of the information requested by the Member prior to the expiration of the deadline for response to this question.

I propose to provide the requested information to the Member, and the Chair of the Committee, via correspondence as soon as possible.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**ESTIMATES HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE NO. 2**

asked on Friday, 22 JULY 2016

DR ROWAN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON DR S MILES)—

QUESTION:

For new mine approved since 31 March 2016, can the Minister advise:

- a) the total number of new mine sites approved;
- b) the locations and names/projects of these sites; and
- c) the number of these that were for sites located in Great Barrier Reef catchments.

ANSWER:

I'm advised that the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has been unable to complete its compilation of the information requested by the Member prior to the expiration of the deadline for response to this question.

I propose to provide the requested information to the Member, and the Chair of the Committee, via correspondence as soon as possible.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE NO. 7

asked on Friday, 22 JULY 2016

MR KATTER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON DR S MILES)—

QUESTION:

What was the decision making process behind the purchase of Springvale?

ANSWER:

The purchase of Springvale Station is a significant investment by the Queensland Government to bring critical habitat for Queensland's unique fauna and flora into the protected area estate and to boost the State's efforts to protect the Great Barrier Reef. The property is well known to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) from scientific study.

Following the property coming to the market, the property was purchased following the standard decision and administrative processes as for other land acquisitions for protected areas. This included the following:

- An independent market valuation of the property was obtained. The price paid was within the valuation range.
- Due diligence checks were undertaken, including the identification of other State and third party interests in the property.
- The conservation values of the property were assessed and their contribution to the protected area estate evaluated. Due to its diversity of ecosystems, presence of threatened species and connectivity to existing and proposed protected areas, the property was considered to represent a significant contribution to a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system. The property was also assessed for its resilience to climate change and its contribution to building a climate change resilient protected area system. The property was identified as likely to retain most of its biodiversity under worst case climate change scenarios.
- The contribution to improving the water quality of the Great Barrier Reef through key management actions was also considered an advantage of the purchase.

In line with the *Financial Accountability Act 2009* and the related Financial Delegation (No. 2) 2015, EHP sought and received Ministerial approval to make offers within the market valuation range and also for expenditure of the purchase price.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**ESTIMATES HEARING
QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE AT THE HEARING**

NATIONAL PARKS PORTFOLIO

asked on Friday, 22 July 2016

DR ROWAN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON DR S MILES)—

QUESTION:

Minister, can you advise what areas are planned for burning this year, and I take it that if the controlled burns have not commenced already they will be very soon?

ANSWER:

I'm advised that the approved priority planned burn program for the 2016 calendar year is as shown in Attachment 1, and that delivery of the 2016 burn program is well advanced.

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) undertakes planned burning throughout the calendar year when appropriate conditions are available to safely and effectively achieve the outcomes sought for each individual planned burn.

QPWS engages with the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services-led Area Fire Management Groups to plan and implement its planned burn program.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
ESTIMATES HEARING
QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE AT THE HEARING

NATIONAL PARKS PORTFOLIO

asked on Friday, 22 July 2016

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service Planned Burn Program 2016

Estate Name	Approved Planned Burn Program Area (ha)	No. Burns
Bania National Park	2,434.88	1
Barakula State Forest	14,075.66	6
Benarkin State Forest	118.71	1
Blackbraes National Park	10,307.80	2
Blackdown Tableland National Park	17,611.81	2
Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park	362,769.62	3
Boondandilla State Forest	3,497.04	1
Booroondoo State Forest	2,415.40	1
Bowling Green Bay National Park	24,408.83	3
Bribie Island National Park	2,253.13	5
Buccan Conservation Park	38.61	1
Bulleringa National Park	47,788.79	1
Bulli State Forest	2,116.80	1
Bunya Mountains National Park	1,197.69	3
Byfield National Park	56.73	1
Cape Hillsborough National Park	175.53	1
Carbrook Wetlands Conservation Park	67.32	5
Cardwell State Forest	3,162.03	4
Carnarvon National Park	3,686.62	7
Chesterton Range National Park	4,654.31	1
Chillagoe-Mungana Caves National Park	701.26	4
Clemant State Forest	4,661.81	1
Conondale National Park	2,214.90	1
Crows Nest National Park	39.99	2
Curtis Island	1,058.90	1
Daandine State Forest	1,009.29	1
D'Aguilar National Park	1,483.15	4
Daintree National Park	1,975.57	2
Daisy Hill Conservation Park	152.11	3
Deepwater National Park	7.59	1
Durikai State Forest	1,218.05	1
Ella Bay National Park	753.30	1
Erringibba National Park	15.85	1
Errk Oykgand National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land)	10,137.71	2

Estate Name	Approved Planned Burn Program Area (ha)	No. Burns
Esk National Park	167.19	3
Eumundi Conservation Park	52.36	1
Fitzroy Island National Park	162.65	1
Formartine State Forest	1,173.88	1
Forty Mile Scrub National Park	200.30	2
Girramay National Park	3,297.90	2
Girraween National Park	1,332.05	3
Girringun National Park	65,770.20	13
Glen Rock State Forest	32.06	4
Great Sandy National Park	47,619.95	8
Greenup State Forest	1,676.61	1
Hallett State Forest	426.06	1
Hann Tableland National Park	3,603.40	1
Herberton Range Conservation Park	56.20	1
Herberton Range State Forest	479.32	2
Homevale Conservation Park	146.73	1
Hull River National Park	115.12	2
Humboldt State Forest	112.21	1
Imbil State Forest 1	2,153.85	1
Japoon National Park	74.25	1
Joseph Banks (Round Hill Head) Conservation Park	52.35	1
King Conservation Park	172.72	1
KULLA (McIlwraith Range) National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land)	22,586.00	1
Kumbarilla State Forest	4,771.95	1
Kuranda National Park	5,202.81	2
Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land)	4,576.00	3
Lamington National Park	483.79	3
Lannercost State Forest	408.83	1
Littabella National Park	27.54	1
Lizard Island National Park	90.50	1
Magnetic Island National Park	293.53	2
Many Peaks Range	595.88	1
McEuen State Forest	25.07	1
McEwan State Forest	53.06	1
Millstream Falls National Park	97.59	1
Minerva Hills National Park	98.33	1
Molle Islands National Park	138.30	1
Moreton Island National Park	2,934.25	2
Morgan Park Conservation Park	170.23	1
Mount Archer National Park	1,704.14	2
Mount Archer State Forest	3,142.81	2
Mount Barney National Park	712.83	4
Mount Lewis National Park	1,369.10	2

Estate Name	Approved Planned Burn Program Area (ha)	No. Burns
Mount Mackay National Park	6.37	1
Mount Maurice State Forest	1,068.45	2
Mount Scoria Regional Park	5.32	1
Mount Windsor National Park	538.06	1
Nerang National Park	283.89	3
Noosa National Park	114.75	3
Nudley State Forest	1,383.50	3
Olkola National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land)	316,623.14	1
Oyala Thumotang National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land)	202,047.62	1
Paluma Range National Park	527.89	3
Passchendaele State Forest	90.93	1
Pine Ridge Regional Park	5.04	1
Porcupine Gorge National Park	2.39	1
Proposed addition to Halifax Bay Wetlands National Park	162.69	1
Ravenshoe Forest Reserve 1	136.03	1
Ravenshoe State Forest 3	55.55	1
Rinyirru (Lakefield) National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land)	515,690.33	2
Samford Conservation Park	24.18	2
Sandy Cape Regional Park	0.00	1
Snake Range National Park	818.71	1
South Cumberland Islands National Park	440.96	1
Springbrook National Park	414.82	5
Staaten River National Park	5,359.41	1
Sundown National Park	333.73	2
Tamborine National Park	1,303.67	2
Tewantin National Park	100.03	1
Tumoulin State Forest	429.56	1
Undara Volcanic National Park	24,968.47	2
Venman Bushland National Park	70.44	2
Western Creek State Forest	3,053.56	1
Wondai State Forest	127.44	1
Wondul Range National Park	3,079.14	1
Wrattens National Park	4,737.00	2
Total for State	1,790,629.76	214

Documents tabled



Department of Environment and Heritage Protection	Notes	2015-16 Target/Est.	2015-16 Est. Actual	2016-17 Target/Est.
Percentage of Queensland's land area that is protected				
Percentage of threatened species, targeted under recovery plans, which maintain or improve their classification	2	95%	96%	95%
<i>Efficiency measure</i> Cost per session for the Queensland wetland information system (WetlandInfo)	3	New measure	New measure	<\$4
Service: Controlling and/or allowing the use of native species				
Service standards <i>Effectiveness measure</i> Percentage of declared crocodiles of concern removed within three months of declaration	4	New measure	New measure	75%
<i>Efficiency measure</i> Average cost per wildlife permit or licence issued	5,6	\$184	\$95	<\$100

Notes:

1. This service standard measures the percentage of Queensland land which is dedicated as national park or regional park or declared as a nature refuge. The 2015-16 Target/Estimate was 8.1 per cent; however based on available data, 7.9% is a realistic Target/Estimate for 2016-17. An assessment of probable additions and revocations from the Protected Area Estate suggests a zero net increase from the current 2015-16 Estimated Actual figure of 7.9 per cent.
2. Recovery plans may be formal plans adopted under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Australian Government legislation) or informal conservation action plans developed by Queensland to recover species. Implementation actions will include regular monitoring which will enable determination of species status as an annual measure.
3. This measures the number of user sessions for WetlandInfo compared with the total staff and other costs involved in managing the system. Costs include all departmental staff expenses (e.g. salaries) to provide input data plus on-costs charged by IT Partners in the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to maintain the system. This service standard provides an indication of the efficiency with which WetlandInfo website information delivery is provided to customers. The <\$4 target has been set based on historical data and forecast usage of the wetland information system. The target will be reviewed in 2017-18 as efficiencies are improved.
4. Crocodile reports are recorded in the CrocWatch database. If the department determines that a crocodile poses an unacceptable risk, it is dealt with as a 'crocodile of concern'. This service standard measures the percentage of all declared crocodiles of concern which are removed by departmental wildlife officers within three months of declaration. This three-month timeframe has been determined taking into account the reasonable time required to resolve the matter based on previous cases.
5. This service standard measures the cost of each wildlife permit or licence approved, refused or withdrawn by the department. The costs involve salaries, on-costs and operational expenses as determined by the Wildlife Management Unit when the wildlife budget was allocated. Percentages for each person/position were allocated to the service. The inclusion of licences in the service standard provides a better description of the service delivered as the number of permits and licences are reported together in the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* Annual Report.
6. The variance between the 2015-16 Target/Estimate and 2015-16 Estimated Actual is due to the unavailability of data when initially determining the measure target. Monitoring the measure over the past year has indicated that the adjusted 2016-17 Target/Estimate is an achievable stretch target.

Agriculture and Environment Committee

Estimates Hearing

22 July 2016

Document Tabled:

By:

No. 6

By LEAVIN
DR Rowan Df

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12 Jul 2016
Courier Mail, Brisbane

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FOR TABLING - QUESTION 20

CITY BEAT

WITH
ANTHONY MARX



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DRUNKEN EXCESS

Alcohol-fuelled excess is nothing out of the ordinary in the Brisbane CBD at the end of the working week.

What's a bit more surprising is how much of it played out at a big bash at the Hilton Hotel last Friday night.

A crowd of nearly 400, including Environment Minister Steven Miles (illustrated) maintaining a level of sobriety, senior bureaucrats and a few CEOs, packed a functions room for the Healthy Waterways Awards.

City Beat spies tell us the tedious process of handing out gongs for environmental do-gooders might have encouraged excessive drinking and general stupidity.

"I suspect many VIPs left early because of the drunken, absurd behaviour of quite a few people," one source told us.

"There were several loud arguments

and, while I did not witness it directly, someone at my table said there was a fight. It

was a thoroughly dull, long and poorly run event which may explain why there was just too much wine/beer offered and consumed. It would potentially

be an embarrassment to the Government if any of the poor behaviour was caught on the hotel's security cameras."

Several sponsors of the not-for-profit group are also understood to be far from amused.

Among those backing Healthy Waterways are SEQ Water, Unity Water, Queensland Urban Utilities and Queensland Rail. Our sources said

tensions in the room may have been heightened because of the drawn out merger of Healthy Waterways and another non-profit, SEQ Catchments, which was approved last month.

Both groups have been doing it tough lately. Healthy Waterways saw its income fall by more than half to \$488,659 in the 2015 financial year, while SEQ Catchments suffered an \$835,142 loss over the same period.

An interim board overseeing the marriage includes Redland Mayor Karen Williams, Unitywater's Dale Smart and former polities Stephen Robertson and Victor Attwood.



Agriculture and Environment Committee

Estimates Hearing

22 July 2016

Document Tabled:

By: DR Rowan BP

No. 7





Media release

Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries
The Honourable Leanne Donaldson

Johne's disease management in Queensland

Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Leanne Donaldson today announced a new approach to Johne's disease management in Queensland.

"As of 1 July 2016, the Queensland Government will no longer regulate livestock entry into Queensland or quarantine properties infected with Johne's disease," the Minister said.

"The change is in step with the national review of Johne's disease management and aligns Queensland with the approach in other states and territories.

"It also responds to continued calls from Queensland producers for more flexibility.

"We are adopting a market-driven, industry-managed and risk-based approach, giving power to producers to make on-farm biosecurity decisions."

Minister Donaldson said the Palaszczuk Government was committed to grow Queensland's prosperous livestock industries.

"To do that we need to adapt to changing market conditions.

"It is a sensible, prudent change to help our producers and has broad industry support because it will provide greater flexibility for producers looking to expand their businesses.

"Queensland will continue to maintain a low prevalence of Johne's disease through this new risk-based approach."

Queensland's Chief Veterinary Officer Allison Crook said most producers will not have to change the way they manage Johne's disease and operate their business.

"Johne's disease will remain a notifiable disease and producers must contact Biosecurity Queensland if they suspect Johne's disease on their property," said Dr Crook.

"As Johne's disease is mostly spread through the movement of livestock, producers will need to ensure they are fully aware of the health status of the animals they purchase.

"High risk animals from southern states where Johne's disease is more common should only be purchased with a comprehensive written health statement detailing the animal's health.

"Guidelines for safely purchasing livestock and making Johne's disease risk-based decisions are available at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au (<http://www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au/>).

"A surveillance program will be run by Biosecurity Queensland to monitor compliance with the new framework and the steps producers are taking to meet their general biosecurity obligation relating to Johne's disease."

Minister Donaldson said the government would continue to work with and support industry in adjusting to the new Johne's disease framework.

For more information on Johne's disease in Queensland visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au

(<http://www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au/>) and for animal health statement templates visit www.farmbiosecurity.com.au
(external site) (<http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/>).

Media: 0448 994 172

Agriculture and Environment Committee

Estimates Hearing

22 July 2016

Document Tabled:

By:

No.

MR LAST *BY LAMAR*

3



Rebecca Bevan

From: Julie McLellan <julie.mclellan@healthywaterways.org>
Sent: Friday, 22 July 2016 4:24 PM
To: phillip.halton@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Cc: Rebecca Bevan
Subject: Healthy Waterways Awards Key Messages

Importance: High

Dear Phillip,

I can confirm the following:

1. No EHP core funding provided to Healthy Waterways Limited is used for the Healthy Waterways Awards, the Awards are all covered by sponsorship dollars.
2. The \$10,000 Ministers Grand Prize goes in totality to the Ministers Grand Prize winner.
3. There were no Government Officers or Officials involved in the incident (therefore no code of conduct was broken).

I can confirm that Tim Moore in EHP has all of the written key messages, and that my media advisor spoke to Catherine Wright on the day of the incident.

If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards
Julie

Julie McLellan
Chief Executive Officer



T (07) 3177 9100 | **F** (07) 3177 9190
E julie.mclellan@healthywaterways.org
W www.healthywaterways.org
L Level 4, 200 Creek Street, Spring Hill 4004
P PO Box 13086, George St, Brisbane Qld 4003



A new era for the management of South East Queensland's land and waterways has begun, with the official formation of Healthy Waterways and Catchments. This new organisation combines leading not-for-profit organisations Healthy Waterways and SEQ Catchments, whose members voted in the change on 28 June 2016. Healthy Waterways and SEQ Catchments will continue to operate under their existing brands while we work through the transition. [Find out more.](#)



Agriculture and Environment Committee

Estimates Hearing

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Document Tabled: By leave

By: Hon Dr Miles

No. T8

PD

Minister – SDS 2 – Environmental Relevant Activities

Minister – I refer to an answer from the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines to Estimates on Wednesday this week and I table from Hansard (after being allowed) and I quote:

There are 178,000 automated checks of rural properties with assessable vegetation and 0.4 per cent have been detected with significant change in vegetation cover and have been tagged for further investigation. It is a very small percentage.

Minister, given the statement from Minister Lynham that the level of non-compliance is very small under his Department's management and sophisticated satellite imagery checking, why has vegetation management been snatched from him and handed to the Member for South Brisbane?

20 Jul 2016 Estimates—State Development and Natural Resources and Mines (Proof) 83

Hansard July 20, 2016 – bottom page 83

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for the question. It is great that you have given me the opportunity to be able to reassure the people of Queensland that the second part of your question is not the case. It is important to recognise that most of the property owners in Queensland, under the current legislation, are doing the right thing. The problem is the current legislation. Most of our landholders are doing the right thing under the current legislation, but the current legislation is simply not working to protect Queensland from climate change and it is not working to protect the health of the Great Barrier Reef.

It is important to acknowledge that most detections that we are finding can be explained by existing authorised approvals, natural causes, or activities undertaken under allowable self-assessable codes. Sixty per cent of detections are just because of these things. Once we find them, they are quickly ruled out. Landholders are provided with a clear before-and-after map of the detected clearing. The landholders are also given a reasonable time to provide additional information, but our officers are there working with them. There are 178,000 automated checks of rural properties with assessable vegetation and 0.4 per cent have been detected with significant change in vegetation cover and have been tagged for further investigation. It is a very small percentage.

**Agriculture and Environment Committee
Estimates Hearing**

22 July 2016

Document Tabled: *By leave*

By: *Member for Messill*

No. *149 pp*

P.D

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 636

asked on Wednesday, 20 April 2016

MS DAVIS ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON DR S MILES)—

QUESTION:

Since the Minister's appointment—

Will the Minister advise (a) the total number of mine sites which have received environment department approval (broken down by ore/commodity type), (b) the total number of new mine sites which have received environment department approval (broken down by ore/commodity type)?

ANSWER:

In total, 220 mining approvals (consisting of 129 new approvals and 91 amendments to existing approvals) have been issued under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act) in the period from 31 January 2015 to 31 March 2016. The following list provides a breakdown of the approvals by ore/commodity type. The ore/commodity type has been based on the environmentally relevant activity as defined in Schedule 2A of the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2008*.

Commodity/Ore	Number of Mining Approvals	Commodity/Ore	Number of Mining Approvals
Coal	30	Lead, Silver, Zinc	6
Copper Ore	8	Mineral	9
Gemstones	4	Mineral - Sand	2
Gold Ore	8	Other Metal Ore	3
Iron Ore	2	Mining - Other	148
Total			220

Of the 220 mining approvals that have been issued in the period from 31 January 2015 to 31 March 2016, 129 of these represent approvals for new mine sites issued under the EP Act. The following list provides a breakdown of the approvals by ore/commodity type. The ore/commodity type has been based on the environmentally relevant activity as defined in Schedule 2A of the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2008*.

Commodity/Ore	Number of Mining Approvals (Application only)
Coal	16
Gemstones	1
Mineral	8
Mining - Other	104

Total	129
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Agriculture and Environment Committee
Estimates Hearing

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By:

DR Rowan

No.

4

[Signature]

Financial Year	(a) Property Address (Electorate)	(b) Area (Ha)	(c) Purchase Price (excl. GST)	(d) Settlement Date
2012 - 2013	Nil			
2013 - 2014	Wild Road, Crohamhurst (Glass House)	125	\$2,420,000	01-Oct-13
	1471 Black Duck Creek Road, Black Duck Creek (Lockyer)	2119.51	\$1,500,000	22-May-14
	1730 Black Duck Creek Road, Black Duck Creek (Lockyer)	257.58	\$450,000	26-Jun-14
2014 - 2015	Baxters Creek Road, Armstrong Creek (Pine Rivers)	180.24	\$425,000	22-Aug-14
	470 Lake MacDonald Drive, Lake MacDonald (Noosa)	57	\$740,000	31-Jul-14
	Upper Logan Road, Barney View (Beaudesert)	196.9	\$475,000	5-Sep-14
	Forest Home Road, Rathdowney (Beaudesert)	194	\$925,000	5-Sep-14
	218 Seidenspinner Road, Mount Barney (Beaudesert)	46.94	\$645,000	8-Sep-14
	Sinai Road, Blacksnake (Callide)	724.65	\$650,000	10-Sep-14
	Turkey Beach Road, Rodds Bay (Burnett)	6354.57	\$3,158,468	2-Oct-14
	471 Upper Thornside Road, Widgee (Callide)	1314	\$1,400,000	17-Nov-14
	East Haldon Road, East Haldon (Lockyer)	2109	\$1,650,000	18-Nov-14
	Mount Archer Road, Mount Archer (Nanango)	310.39	\$700,000	15-Dec-14
	1598 Mount Adder Road, Mount Britton (Mirani)	19200	\$1,450,000	12-Jan-15

	SEQ/Inside the SPRP
	SEQ/Outside the SPRP
	Outside SEQ

Agriculture and Environment Committee

Estimates Hearing

22 July 2016

Document Tabled: BY LEAVE

By: Hon DR MILES

No. 5

A handwritten signature, possibly of a member of the committee, is written at the end of the line for the document number.

Correspondence





Hon Dr Steven Miles MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef

27 JUL 2016

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Mr Glenn Butcher MP
Chair
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
George St
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Butcher

Earlier today, in my response to two of the questions which I took on notice during the Agriculture and Environment Committee's hearings into the 2016-17 Budget for my portfolio, I undertook to supply information which had been requested by your committee via correspondence.

These two questions related to mine approvals between 31 January 2015 and 31 March 2016, and between 1 April and 30 June 2016.

I'm pleased to advise that the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has completed the task of compiling and mapping the information requested at the Committee hearing.

Attachment 1 and Attachment 2 to this letter provide detailed responses to these two questions. Attachment 1 also provides a correction to a figure contained in an answer provided to Question on Notice No. 636.

To expedite access to this information, I've taken the liberty of writing directly to the Member for Moggill, Dr Christian Rowan MP.

Should your staff have any enquiries, please ask them to contact my Chief of Staff, Mr Philip Halton on 3719 7330.

Yours sincerely

DR STEVEN MILES MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef

Information in response to Estimates Hearing Question on Notice No. 1

At the Estimates Hearing of 22 July 2016, the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, the Honourable Dr Steven Miles MP was asked to advise on the locations and names of new mine sites with environmental authorities approved between 31 January 2015 and 31 March 2016, as well as how many were located within Great Barrier Reef catchments.

The question made reference to information previously provided in response to Question on Notice No.636, which indicated that 129 new mining environmental approvals had occurred during the period from 31 January 2015 to 31 March 2016.

Following the recent Estimates hearing, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has realised that there were only 128 approvals made over the period, rather than the 129 previously indicated. The error was due to the double-counting of one record held by the Department.

The table below sets out the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's advice as to the 128 approvals that occurred from 31 January 2015 to 31 March 2016.

In the table below, there are four records where the environmental authorities are no longer active (numbers 33, 39, 40 and 85).

The map annexed to this attachment indicates the location of the active approvals.

In the annexed map, some approvals with the same number may appear more than once.

This can occur for two reasons. Firstly, as shown in the table below, some environmental authorities apply to more than one tenure and location; an example is approval number 50. Secondly, some environmental authorities apply to a tenure which is fragmented into several sites; an example is approval number 89.

As shown in the table and the annexed map, 45 current environmental authorities that were issued in this period fall within Great Barrier Reef catchments.

Map_ID	Name	Location	Project Name	Resource Type	Commentary regarding mapping
1	Legend International Holdings, Inc.	ML90197	Paradise South	Mining - Other	
2	Adani Mining Pty Ltd	ML70441	Carmichael Coal Mine	Coal	In Reef Catchment
		ML70506			
		ML70505			
3	Gosford Quarries (Properties) Pty Ltd	ML50199	Mining Lease 50199	Gemstone	
4	BHP Coal Pty Ltd	ML70421	Red Hill Coal Mine	Coal	In Reef Catchment
		ML1763			
5	Bogside Mining Industries Pty Ltd	ML4573	Bogside Coal Mine	Coal	
6	Boral CSR Bricks Pty Ltd	ML4640	Brisbane Mining Project	Mining - Other	
		ML4713			
		ML4654			
		ML4552			
		ML50144			
		ML4604			
		ML4643			
		ML4628			
		ML4706			
		ML4629			
		ML50028			
		ML4632			
		ML1102			
		ML4639			
7	Hannigan & Associates Pty Limited	EPC2013	Exploration Permit Coal 2013	Coal	In Reef Catchment
8	Queensland Coking Coal Pty Ltd	EPC1233	Exploration Permit Coal 1233 Exploration Permit Coal 2013	Coal	In Reef Catchment
9	U&D Mining Industry (Australia) Pty Ltd	EPC818	Exploration Permit Coal 818	Coal	In Reef Catchment

Map_ID	Name	Location	Project Name	Resource Type	Commentary regarding mapping
10	Byerwen Coal Pty Ltd	MDL443	Mineral Development License 443	Coal	In Reef Catchment
11	Wallace, Ian	ML20398	Tinaroo Tin	Mining - Other	In Reef Catchment
		ML20397			
12	Smith, George Henry	ML20436	Mining Lease 20436	Mining - Other	
13	White, Simon	ML20664	Mining Lease 20664	Mining - Other	
14	Phillips, Pauline	ML20620	Mining Lease 20620	Mining - Other	
15	Congoo, Thomas	ML20625	Mining Lease 20625	Mining - Other	In Reef Catchment
16	Ballantine, Nicholas	ML50292	Mining Lease 50292	Mining - Other	
17	Capricorn Stone Products Pty Ltd	ML100010	Mining Lease 100010	Mining - Other	In Reef Catchment
18	Hogan, Naomi Lee	ML100009	Mining Lease 100009	Mining - Other	
19	Stoverink, Antonius Bernardus	ML400004	Mining Lease 400004	Mining - Other	
		ML400001			
20	Stoverink, Bernardus Johannes Maria	ML400003	Mining Lease 400002	Mining - Other	
		ML400002			
21	Pedersen Enterprises Pty Ltd	ML100014	Mining Lease 100014	Mining - Other	
22	Northeast Mining Co Pty Ltd	ML100017	Mining Lease 100017	Mining - Other	

Map_ID	Name	Location	Project Name	Resource Type	Commentary regarding mapping
23	North Queensland Mining Pty Ltd	ML100018	Mining Lease 1000018	Mining - Other	
24	Fitzgerald, Raymond Michael	ML20408	Mining Lease 20422	Mining - Other	
		ML20422			
		ML20421			
25	Fitzgerald, Cheryl May	ML20724	Mining Lease 20412	Mining - Other	
		ML20418			
		ML20411			
		ML20412			
26	L & P Mines Pty Ltd	ML20701	Mining Lease 20701	Mining - Other	In Reef Catchment
27	\$uccess Pty Ltd	ML1449	Mining Lease 1449	Mining - Other	In Reef Catchment
28	Wandoo Tenements Pty Ltd	ML20381	Mining Lease 20381	Mining - Other	
29	Fitzgerald, Donna	ML5098	Mining Lease 5098	Mining - Other	
30	Mitchell, Martin Gerard	ML7471	Mining Lease 7471	Mining - Other	
		ML7446			
31	Eureka Resources Pty Ltd	ML20589	Mining Lease 20589	Mining - Other	
32	Carpentaria Gold Pty Ltd	EPM16118	Ravenswood Project	Mineral	In Reef Catchment
33	BBT Coal Limited	EPC2422	Exploration Permit Coal 2422	Coal	Permit no longer active.

Map_ID	Name	Location	Project Name	Resource Type	Commentary regarding mapping
34	Copper Strike Ltd	EPM18877	Exploration Permit Mineral 18877	Mining - Other	In Reef Catchment
35	ACN 132 668 314 Pty Ltd	EPM19424	Exploration Permit Mineral 19424	Mining - Other	
36	Marlborough Nickel Pty Ltd	EPM19439	Exploration Permit Mineral 19439	Mining - Other	In Reef Catchment
37	M.A. Roche Group Pty Ltd	EPM19275	Exploration Permit Mineral 19275	Mining - Other	
38	Jems Exploration Pty Ltd	EPC2755	Exploration Permit Coal 2755	Coal	In Reef Catchment
39	Premier Mining Pty Ltd	EPM19377	N/A	Mining - Other	Permit no longer active.
40	Tech Direct Pty Ltd	EPM19370	N/A	Mining - Other	Permit no longer active
41	Ripple Resources Pty Ltd	EPM25802	Exploration Permit Minerals 25802	Mining - Other	
42	Asset Minerals Landholdings Pty Ltd	EPM25841	Exploration Permit Mineral 25841	Mining - Other	
43	Ogilvie, George William	EPM16288	Exploration Permit Mineral 16288	Mining - Other	
44	Bushman Resources Pty Ltd	EPM25869	Exploration Permit Mineral 25869	Mining - Other	
45	Sandfire Resources NL	EPM25874	Exploration Permit Minerals 25874	Mining - Other	

Map_ID	Name	Location	Project Name	Resource Type	Commentary regarding mapping
46	Bowen Basin Coal Pty Ltd	MDL3001	Mineral Development License 3001	Coal	In Reef Catchment
47	Oakland Gold Pty Ltd	EPM25882	Exploration Permit Minerals 25882	Mining - Other	
48	Mount Haden Explorations Pty Ltd	EPM17413	Exploration Permit Mineral 17413	Mining - Other	
49	Mount Haden Explorations Pty Ltd	EPM17160	Exploration Permit Mineral 17160	Mining - Other	
50	Sasak Metals Pty Ltd	EPM25887	Exploration Permit Minerals 25887	Mining - Other	
		EPM25885			
		EPM25883			
		EPM25884			
51	Sandfire Resources NL	EPM25897	Exploration Permit Minerals 25897	Mining - Other	
52	Kronos Gold LLC	EPM25893	Exploration Permit Mineral 25893	Mining - Other	
53	Hebrides Resources Pty Ltd	EPM25895	Exploration Permit Mineral 25895	Mining - Other	In Reef Catchment
54	Dynasty Gold Pty Ltd	EPM25896	Exploration Permit Mineral 25896	Mining - Other	In Reef Catchment
55	Kronos Gold LLC	EPM25881	Exploration Permit Mineral 25881	Mining - Other	

Map_ID	Name	Location	Project Name	Resource Type	Commentary regarding mapping
56	Minotaur Operations Pty Ltd	EPM25886	Exploration Permit Mineral 25886	Mining - Other	
57	Millungera Energy Minerals Pty Ltd	EPM25894	Exploration Permit Mineral 25894	Mining - Other	
58	Minotaur Operations Pty Ltd	EPM25889	Exploration Permit Mineral 25889	Mining - Other	
59	Minotaur Operations Pty Ltd	EPM25888	Exploration Permit Mineral 25888	Mining - Other	
60	Tasmania Mines Limited	EPM25899	Exploration Permit Minerals 25899	Mining - Other	In Reef Catchment
61	Kynoch Minerals Pty Ltd	EPM25898	Exploration Permit Mineral 25898	Mining - Other	
62	Balterra Resources Pty Ltd	EPM25910	Exploration Permit Mineral 25910	Mining - Other	
63	Black Phoenix Mining Pty Ltd	EPM25918	Exploration Permit Mineral 25918	Mining - Other	
64	Plethora Pty Ltd	EPM25916	Exploration Permit Mineral 25916	Mining - Other	
65	Black Phoenix Mining Pty Ltd	EPM25917	Exploration Permit Mineral 25917	Mining - Other	

Map_ID	Name	Location	Project Name	Resource Type	Commentary regarding mapping
66	Sandfire Resources NL	EPM25920	Exploration Permit Minerals 25920	Mining - Other	
67	Ausmoly Pty Ltd	EPM25924	Exploration Permit Mineral 25924	Mining - Other	In Reef Catchment
68	Prospect Hill Mining and Exploration Pty Ltd	EPM19683	Exploration Permit Mineral 19683	Mining - Other	
69	Sandfire Resources NL	EPM25922	Exploration Permit Minerals 25922	Mining - Other	
70	Sandfire Resources NL	EPM25921	Exploration Permit Minerals 25921	Mining - Other	
71	A.C.N. 605 294 228 Pty Ltd	EPM25926	Exploration Permit Mineral 25926	Mining - Other	In Reef Catchment
72	Wandoo Tenements Pty Ltd	EPM25927	Exploration Permit Minerals 25927	Mining - Other	
		ML20234			
73	Cromarty Resources Pty Ltd	EPM14161	Exploration Permit Mineral 14161	Mining - Other	In Reef Catchment
74	McDermott Creek Mining Pty Ltd	EPM25930	Exploration Permit Mineral 25930	Mining - Other	
75	North Queensland Tungsten Pty Ltd	EPM25940	Exploration Permit Mineral 25940	Mining - Other	

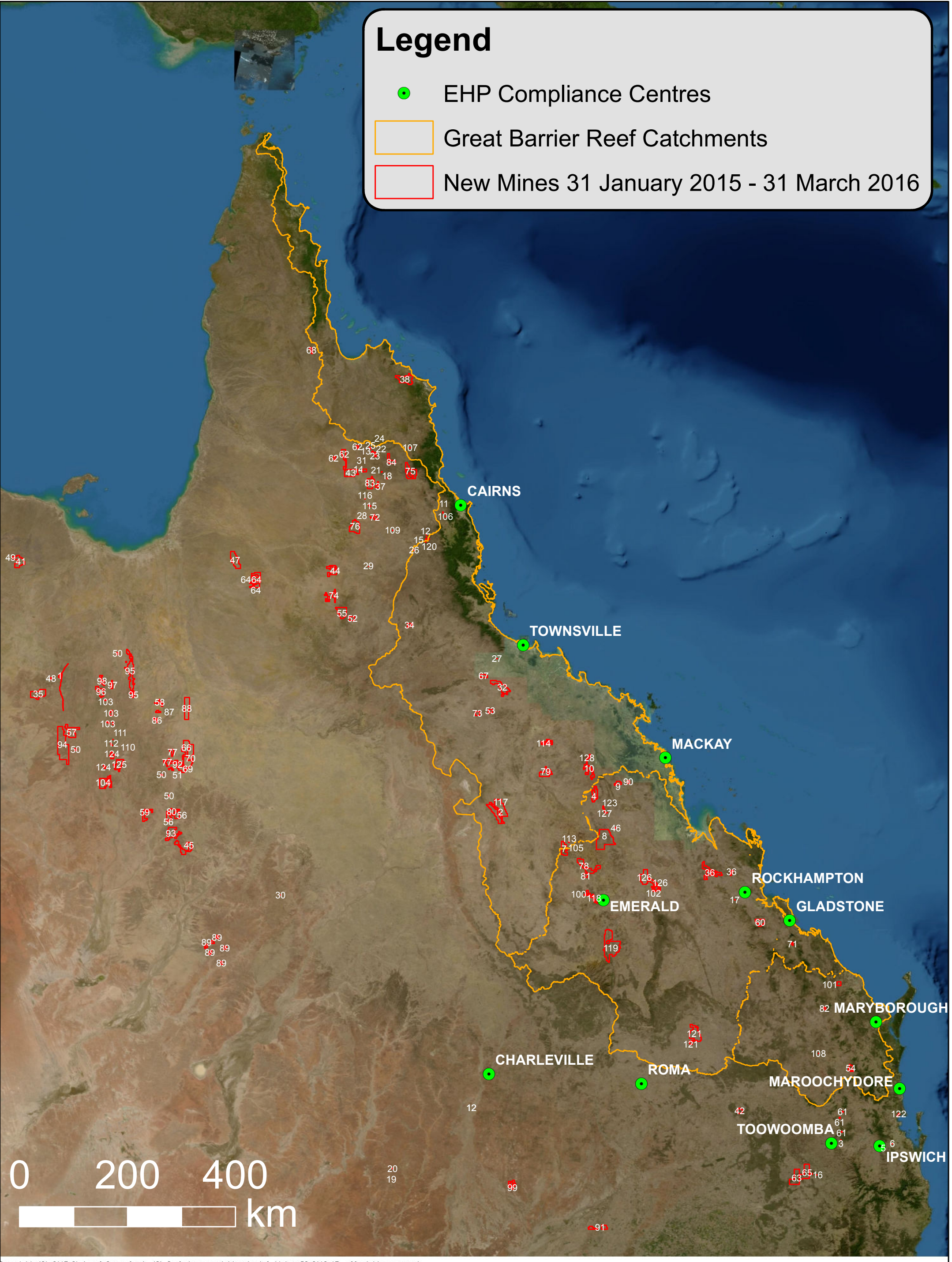
Map_ID	Name	Location	Project Name	Resource Type	Commentary regarding mapping
76	Jumani Pty Ltd	EPM25942	Exploration Permit Mineral 25942	Mining - Other	
77	Sandfire Resources NL	EPM25950	Exploration Permit Minerals 25950	Mining - Other	
78	Khalkeus Pty Ltd	EPM25952	Exploration Permit Mineral 25952	Mining - Other	In Reef Catchment
79	Austral Dutch Kaolin Pty Ltd	EPM25962	Exploration Permit Mineral 25962	Mining - Other	In Reef Catchment
80	Minotaur Operations Pty Ltd	EPM25960	Exploration Permit Mineral 25960	Mining - Other	
81	Cape Coal Pty Ltd	EPM25956	Exploration Permit Mineral 25956	Mining - Other	In Reef Catchment
82	Queensland Industrial Minerals Pty Ltd	MDL355	Mineral Development License 355	Mineral	In Reef Catchment
83	Thirnbeck, Michael	EPM25970	Exploration Permit Minerals 25970	Mining - Other	
84	Thirnbeck, Michael	EPM25987	Exploration Permit Minerals 25987	Mining - Other	
85	Touchstone Resources Pty Ltd	EPM25990	N/A	Mining - Other	Permit no longer active.
86	Newmont Exploration Pty Ltd	EPM25994	Exploration Permit Mineral 25994	Mining - Other	

Map_ID	Name	Location	Project Name	Resource Type	Commentary regarding mapping
87	Newmont Exploration Pty Ltd	EPM25993	Exploration Permit Mineral 25993	Mining - Other	
88	Austpec Minerals Pty Ltd	EPM25968	Exploration Permit Mineral 25968	Mining - Other	
89	Great Southern Opal Mines Pty Ltd	EPM26006	Exploration Permit Mineral 26006	Mining - Other	
90	Ellenkay Gold Pty Ltd	EPM26008	Exploration Permit Mineral 26008	Mining - Other	In Reef Catchment
91	Carney, Nicole	EPM26009	Exploration Permit Mineral 26009	Mining - Other	
92	Queensland Mining Corporation Limited	EPM26011	Exploration Permit Mineral 26011	Mining - Other	
93	Sandfire Resources NL	EPM19542	Exploration Permit Minerals 19542	Mining - Other	
94	Aeon Walford Creek Limited	EPM15212	Exploration Permit Mineral 15212	Mining - Other	
95	Exco Resources Ltd	EPM26025	Exploration Permit Mineral 26025	Mining - Other	
96	Malaco Leichhardt Pty Ltd	EPM26029	Exploration Permit Mineral 26029	Mining - Other	

Map_ID	Name	Location	Project Name	Resource Type	Commentary regarding mapping
97	Malaco Leichhardt Pty Ltd	EPM26030	Exploration Permit Mineral 26030	Mining - Other	
98	Malaco Leichhardt Pty Ltd	EPM26027	Exploration Permit Mineral 26027	Mining - Other	
99	Southern Gravel Pty Ltd	EPM26043	Exploration Permit Minerals 26043	Mining - Other	
100	GCB Minerals Pty Ltd	EPM25988	Exploration Permit Mineral 25988	Mining - Other	In Reef Catchment
101	Honor, Wayne	EPM26084	Exploration Permit Mineral 26084	Mining - Other	In Reef Catchment
102	MRV Bowen Basin Coal Pty Ltd	EPC1445	Exploration Permit Coal 1445	Coal	In Reef Catchment
103	Syndicated Metals Limited	EPM14281	Exploration Permit Minerals 14281	Mining - Other	
104	ISA Tenements Pty Ltd	EPM19483	Exploration Permit Mineral 19483	Mining - Other	
105	Doss, Adan Paul	ML70523	Mining Lease 70523	Mining - Other	In Reef Catchment
106	Johnston, Russell Ian	ML20663	Mining Lease 20663	Mining - Other	In Reef Catchment
107	Johnson, William Raymond	ML20754	Mining Lease 20623	Mining - Other	In Reef Catchment
		ML20623			

Map_ID	Name	Location	Project Name	Resource Type	Commentary regarding mapping
108	Smyth, Paul Anthony	ML100016	Mining Lease 100016	Mining - Other	In Reef Catchment
109	L & P Mines Pty Ltd	ML20488	Mining Lease 20488	Mining - Other	
110	Mining International Pty Ltd	ML2771	Mining Lease 2771	Mining - Other	
111	Mining International Pty Ltd	ML2773	Mining Lease 2773	Mining - Other	
		ML2504		Mining - Other	
112	Mining International Pty Ltd	ML90098	Mining Lease 90098		
113	Pearl, Ross Andrew	ML70397	Mining Lease 70397	Mining - Other	In Reef Catchment
114	Circle Resources Pty Ltd	ML100040	Exploration Permit Mineral 18019	Mining - Other	In Reef Catchment
		EPM18019			
115	Auctus Resources Pty Ltd	ML20658	Mining Lease 20658	Mining - Other	
116	Auctus Resources Pty Ltd	ML4798	Mining Lease 4798	Mining - Other	
117	Blackwood Resources Pty Ltd	EPC1957	Exploration Permit Coal 1957	Coal	In Reef Catchment
118	ACN Mining Pty Ltd	EPC2093	Exploration Permit Coal 2093	Coal	In Reef Catchment
119	Endocoal Ltd	EPC1517	Exploration Permit Coal 1517	Coal	In Reef Catchment

Map_ID	Name	Location	Project Name	Resource Type	Commentary regarding mapping
120	Byrne, Graham William	ML20365	Mining Lease 20435	Mining - Other	In Reef Catchment
		EPM14743			
		ML20435			
		ML100007			
		ML20364			
121	Stanmore Surat Coal Pty Ltd	EPC1276	Exploration Permit Coal 1276	Coal	In Reef Catchment
122	Pacific Silica Pty Ltd	MDL260	Mineral Development License 261	Mineral	
		MDL263			
		MDL261			
123	Millennium Coal Pty Ltd	MDL135	Millennium Mine	Coal	In Reef Catchment
124	Mt Dockerell Mining Pty Ltd	EPM13870	Exploration Permit Mineral 13870	Mining - Other	
125	Kabiri Resources Pty Ltd	EPM18084	Exploration Permit Mineral 18084	Mining - Other	
126	Yarrabee Coal Company Pty Ltd	MDL160	Exploration Permit Coal 621	Coal	In Reef Catchment
		EPC717			
		EPC557			
		EPC621			
127	Millennium Coal Pty Ltd	MDL137	Millennium Mine	Coal	In Reef Catchment
128	Glencore Coal Queensland Pty Limited	EPC977	Exploration Permit Coal 977	Coal	In Reef Catchment



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Attachment 2

Information in response to Estimates Hearing Question on Notice No. 2

At the Estimates Hearing on 22 July 2016, the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, the Honourable Dr Steven Miles was asked to provide the locations and names of new mine sites with environmental authorities approved between 1 April and 30 June 2016, as well as how many were located within Great Barrier Reef catchments.

I'm advised that 52 mining environmental approvals were made over the period.

The table below sets out the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's advice as to the 52 approvals that occurred from 31 January 2015 to 31 March 2016.

The map annexed to this attachment indicates the location of these approvals.

In the annexed map, some approvals with the same number may appear more than once.

This can occur for either of two reasons. Firstly, as shown in the table below, some environmental authorities apply to more than one tenure and location; an example is approval number 49. Secondly, some environmental authorities apply to a tenure which is fragmented into several sites; an example is approval number 34.

As shown in the table and the annexed map, 24 current environmental authorities that were issued in this period fall within Great Barrier Reef catchments.

Map ID	Name	Location	Project Name	Resource Type	Commentary regarding mapping
1	Eastern Coal Pty Limited	EPC2054	Exploration Permit Coal 2054	Coal	In Reef Catchment
2	Urea Corp of Australia Pty Ltd	EPC1435	Exploration Permit Coal 1435		In Reef Catchment
3	Zined Pty Ltd	EPC2300	Exploration Permit Coal 2300		In Reef Catchment
4	Moranbah North Coal Pty Ltd	MDL166	Mineral Development Licence 166		In Reef Catchment
5	PEMBROKE RESOURCES SOUTH PTY LTD	MDL3014	Mineral Development Licence 3014		In Reef Catchment
6		MDL3013	Mineral Development Licence 3013		In Reef Catchment
7		MDL3012	Mineral Development Licence 3012		In Reef Catchment
8	Yamala Coal Pty Ltd	MDL3007	Mineral Development Licence 3007		In Reef Catchment
9	Anderleigh Enterprises Pty Ltd	ML50283	Mining Lease 50283	Mining - other	In Reef Catchment
10		ML20658	King Vol		

Map_ID	Name	Location	Project Name	Resource Type	Commentary regarding mapping
11	Auctus Resources Pty Ltd	ML4798	Mining Lease 4798		
12	Blazely, Amanda J	ML20622	Mining Lease 20622		
13	Crossland, Paul Edwin	ML20485	Mining Lease 20468		
14	Doxford, Clyde Ian	ML100021	Charelle		In Reef Catchment
15	Eureka Resources Pty Ltd	ML100062	Mining Lease 100062		
16	Gourley, Robin David	ML3125	Mining Lease 3125		
17	Hensel, Hans-Dieter	ML20043	Mining Lease 20043		
18	Jenno, Stephen	ML20485	Mining Lease 20485		
19	Jodo Gold Pty Ltd	EPM18419 ML100008	Mining Lease 100008 and Exploration Permit Minerals 18419		In Reef Catchment
20	Ludlow, Richard Henry	ML4438	Mining Lease 4438		In Reef Catchment
21	Miriwinni Lime Pty Ltd	ML4788 ML4789 ML5079 ML5372	Miriwinni Lime Project		
22	Queensland Zeolite Pty Ltd	ML7453 ML7454 ML80078	Mining Lease 7453, 7454, 80078		In Reef Catchment
23	Sallur, Kenneth John	ML60049	Mining Lease 60049		
24	SMA Mining Pty Ltd	ML100046	Mining Lease 100046		
25	Symbolic Resources Pty Ltd	ML1075 EPM26160	Mining Lease 1075 and Exploration Permit Minerals 26160		In Reef Catchment
26	CopperChem Ltd	ML90241	Barbara Copper Project		
27	Boral CSR Bricks Pty Ltd	ML1100 ML1106 ML1171 ML4622	Brisbane District Operations		

Map_ID	Name	Location	Project Name	Resource Type	Commentary regarding mapping
		ML50116			
		ML50117			
		ML50183			
28	Abercorn Mine Management Pty Ltd	EPM26138	Exploration Permit Minerals 26138		In Reef Catchment
29	Albatross Bauxite Pty Ltd	EPM25977	Exploration Permit Minerals 25976, 25977		In Reef Catchment
30	Armfest Pty Ltd	EPM25775	Exploration Permit Minerals 25775		In Reef Catchment
31	Asmam Pty Ltd	EPM26016	Exploration Permit Minerals 26016		
32	Baybridge Nominees Pty Ltd	EPM25705	Exploration Permit Minerals 25705		In Reef Catchment
33	BGM Investments Pty Ltd	EPM25617	Exploration Permit Minerals 25617		In Reef Catchment
34	Black Phoenix Mining Pty Ltd	EPM26040	Exploration Permit Minerals 26040		
35	Blackdown Mine Management Pty Ltd	EPM26148	Exploration Permit Minerals 26148		In Reef Catchment
36	Coronation Resources Limited	EPM25934	Exploration Permit Mineral 25934		
37	CWH Resources Ltd	EPM18042	Exploration Permit Mineral 18042		
38	Diatreme Resources Limited	EPM17795	Exploration Permit Mineral 17795		In Reef Catchment
39	Gulf Alumina Limited	EPM18457	Exploration Permit Mineral 18457		
40	ISA Brightlands Pty Ltd	EPM18672	Exploration Permit Mineral 18672		
41	Majorx Pty Ltd	EPM26014	Exploration Permit Mineral 26014		
42	Malaco Leichhardt Pty Ltd	EPM26028	Exploration Permit Mineral 26028		
43	Manganese Australia Corporation Pty Ltd	EPM17872	Exploration Permit Mineral 17872		
44	Monax Mining Limited	EPM26038	Exploration Permit Mineral 26038		
45	MRV Metals Pty Ltd	EPM11455	Exploration Permit Mineral 1455		
		EPM12858			
		EPM18950			

Map_ID	Name	Location	Project Name	Resource Type	Commentary regarding mapping
		EPM8854			
46	Mulga Opals Pty Limited	EPM19757	Exploration Permit Mineral 19757		
47	Newmont Exploration Pty Ltd	EPM26071	Exploration Permit Mineral 26071		
48		EPM26078	Exploration Permit Mineral 26078		
49	Oresome Australia Pty Ltd	EPM15268	Exploration Permit Mineral 15268		
		EPM15371			
		EPM15372			
		EPM18015			
		EPM18738			
		EPM18998			
		EPM19001			
50	Orion Gold NL	EPM26083	Exploration Permit Mineral 26083		In Reef Catchment
51		EPM26081	Exploration Permit Mineral 26081		In Reef Catchment
52		EPM26082	Exploration Permit Mineral 26082		In Reef Catchment



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QoN 636 New Mines QLD & GBR Catchments

1 April 2016 - 30 June 2016



