



## Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee Consideration of 2014/2015 Portfolio Budget Estimates Volume of Additional Information

### **Signed Minutes**

Meeting of 4 June 2014

Meeting of 15 July 2014

Meeting of 17 July 2014

Meeting on 30 July 2014

### **Correspondence**

Letter dated 14 July 2014 from the Leader of the Opposition

### **Correspondence relating to replacement of committee members**

Letter dated 14 July 2014 from the Leader of the Opposition

Letter dated 16 July 2014 from the Leader of the Opposition

### **Answers to Questions on Notice**

**Amended answer provided by Hon Cripps to Govt Question on Notice No.6**

### **Documents tabled at the hearing**

1. 17.7.14 tabled with leave by Hon Cripps

2. 17.7.14 tabled with leave by Hon Cripps

3. 17.7.14 tabled by Mr Knuth

### **Responses provided to questions Taken on Notice at Hearing**

### **Information provided as clarification**

<b>Signed Minutes</b>
Meeting of 4 June 2014
Meeting of 15 July 2014
Meeting of 17 July 2014
Meeting on 30 July 2014



## Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee

Meeting No. 64 (E) - Estimates

Tuesday 4 June 2014 at 8.50 am

Room 504, Level 5, Parliamentary Annexe, Brisbane

**Members Present:** Mr Ian Rickuss MP, Chair, Member for Lockyer  
Mr Sam Cox MP, Member for Thuringowa  
Mrs Anne Maddern MP, Member for Maryborough  
Mr Michael Trout MP, Member for Barron River  
Mr Jason Costigan MP, Member for Whitsunday  
Ms Jackie Trad MP, Member for South Brisbane (by phone)

**In attendance:** Mr Rob Hansen, Research Director  
Mrs Megan Johns, Principal Research Officer

**Apologies:** Mr Shane Knuth MP, Member for Dalrymple

### 2. Inquiry timetable

Moved Mr Cox and seconded Mr Costigan

*That the timetable for the scrutiny of portfolio budget estimates 2014 be agreed to.*

Agreed

### 3. Hearing program

Moved Mrs Maddern and seconded Mr Costigan

*That the hearing program for the scrutiny of portfolio budget estimates 2014 with times allocated to portfolio service areas be agreed to.*

Agreed

### 4. Close

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.55 am.

Confirmed this the 15th day of July 2014

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Rickuss'.

Ian Rickuss MP

Chair



## Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee

Meeting No. 66 (E) - Estimates

Tuesday 15 July 2014 at 8.35 am

Library Seminar Room, Level 6, Parliamentary Annexe, Brisbane

**Members Present:** Mr Ian Rickuss MP, Chair, Member for Lockyer  
 Mr Sam Cox MP, Member for Thuringowa  
 Mrs Anne Maddern MP, Member for Maryborough  
 Mr Michael Trout MP, Member for Barron River  
 Mr Jason Costigan MP, Member for Whitsunday  
 Mr Shane Knuth MP, Member for Dalrymple

**In attendance:** Mr Rob Hansen, Research Director  
 Mrs Megan Johns, Principal Research Officer

**Apologies:** Ms Jackie Trad MP, Member for South Brisbane

### 2. Minutes

Moved Mr Rickuss and seconded Mrs Maddern:

*That the minutes of estimates meeting 64E held on 4 June 2014 be agreed to.*

Agreed

### 3. Estimates hearing program

Moved Mr Cox and seconded Mr Costigan:

*That the following revised hearing program be agreed to -*

Tuesday 15 July 2014		
Portfolio	Service Areas	Times
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection	Conservation and Sustainability Services Environmental Services and Regulation Environmental Policy and Planning	9.00am – 10.30am
Break		10.30am – 11.00am
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection	Conservation and Sustainability Services Environmental Services and Regulation Environmental Policy and Planning	11.00am – 12.30pm
Lunch		12.30pm – 1.30pm
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines	Water Services	1.30pm – 2.30pm
Break		2.30pm – 3.00pm

Minister for Natural Resources and Mines	Mine Safety and Health Services Mining and Petroleum Services	3.00pm – 5.00pm
<b>Thursday 17 July 2014</b>		
Portfolio	Service Areas	Times
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines	Land Services	9.00am – 11.00am
Break		11.00am – 11.30am
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Agriculture	11.30am – 12.30pm
Lunch		12.30pm – 1.30pm
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Agriculture	1.30pm – 3.00pm
Break		3.00pm – 3.30pm
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Biosecurity Queensland Fisheries and Forestry	3.30pm – 5.00pm

*Agreed***4. Requests for leave to participate in the committee's hearings**

Moved Mr Knuth and seconded Mr Trout:

*That the committee grants leave for the Leader of the Opposition to participate in the committee's estimates hearings, and notes that the Member for Woodridge will attend the hearings on 15 July in the absence of the Member for South Brisbane.*

*Agreed***5. Hearing procedures**

Moved Mr Costigan and seconded Mr Knuth:

*That the committee notes that -*

- *In accordance with SO 181, committee members and visiting members may only directly question ministers, directors-general and CEOs listed in Schedule 7 of the SOs*
- *committee staff will endeavour to note all questions taken on notice during the hearing, and will if unsure ask members to clarify their questions. Answers to questions taken on notice are due back to the Research Director by 10.00am on Tuesday 22 July 2014.*
- *the Chair presides over the committee's hearings in much the same way as the Speaker presides over the sittings of Parliament. In a hearing, the Chair is the arbiter for all procedural issues. Members who challenge or debate the rulings of the Chair on procedural matters during a public hearing may be held in contempt of Parliament. The correct process for a member wishing to dispute a ruling on a procedural matter by the Chair is to request the Chair to adjourn the hearing so the committee may deliberate in private on the Chair's ruling.*
- *the Library Seminar Room has been allotted to the committee to conduct private meetings during estimates hearings to resolve procedural issues*
- *For each break, coffee & tea will be available in the corridor at the back of the hearing room for committee members*
- *The media may attend the hearings to film the proceedings*

*Agreed*

**6. Close**

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.45 am.

Confirmed this the 30<sup>th</sup> day of July 2014

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Rickuss', written in a cursive style.

Ian Rickuss MP

Chair

#### 4. Allocation of time

The committee discussed a breakdown prepared and circulated by the Research Director of the times allowed for questioning at the hearings on 15 July 2014.

Moved Mrs Maddern and seconded Mr Trout:  
*That the committee seeks advice from the Clerk.*

Agreed

The Clerk was called and attended the meeting from 8.35am to provide advice on practices for the allocation of questioning time to government and non-government members at committee hearings for the consideration of budget estimates.

Moved Ms Trad and seconded Mrs Maddern:  
*That the times allocated for questions at today's hearing be allocated evenly for government and non-government members.*

Agreed

#### 5. Close

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.45 am.

Confirmed this the 30<sup>th</sup> day of July 2014



Ian Rickuss MP

Chair



## Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee

Meeting No. 69 (E) - Estimates

Wednesday 30 July 2014 at 10.00 am

Committee Room 2, Level 6, Parliamentary Annexe, Brisbane

**Members Present:** Mr Ian Rickuss MP, Chair, Member for Lockyer  
Mr Sam Cox MP, Member for Thuringowa  
Mrs Anne Maddern MP, Member for Maryborough

Mr Jason Costigan MP, Member for Whitsunday  
Mr Shane Knuth MP, Member for Dalrymple  
Ms Jackie Trad MP, Member for South Brisbane

**In attendance:** Mr Rob Hansen, Research Director  
Mrs Megan Johns, Principal Research Officer

**Apologies:** Mr Michael Trout MP, Member for Barron River

### 2. Minutes of meetings 66E and 68E

Moved Mr Costigan and seconded Mr Cox that:

*That the minutes of meeting 66E held on 15 July 2014 be agreed to.*

Agreed

Moved Ms Trad and seconded Mrs Maddern that:

*That the minutes of meeting 68E held on 17 July 2014 be agreed to.*

Agreed

### 3. Publications of answers to questions taken on notice

Moved Ms Maddern and seconded Mr Cox that:

*That the committee authorises the publication of answers provided by ministers in response to questions taken on notice at the public hearings on 15 and 17 July 2014.*

Agreed

### 4. Consideration of the Chair's draft report

Moved Mr Cox and seconded Mrs Maddern that:

*The committee adopts the Chair's report as its report, and authorises that it be tabled in conjunction with a volume of additional information on 1 August 2014.*

AYES – 5 (Mr Rickuss; Mr Costigan; Mr Cox; Mrs Maddern, Mr Knuth)

NOES – 1 (Ms Trad)

Resolved in the affirmative.

**5. Corrections to the hearing transcripts**

The committee considered requests for corrections proposed by departments and ministers.

Moved Mrs Maddern and seconded Mr Costigan that:

*The proposed corrections to the transcripts be agreed to, with the exception of the following changes for which ministers and departments are to be invited to provide clarifications:*

*Environment and Heritage Protection - 15.7.14 transcript*

Page 5, para 6            Proposal to replace **\$512,115** with **\$52,115**

*Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - 17.7.14 transcript*

Page 63 para 4            Proposal to change **South** America to **southern** America.

Agreed

**6. Close**

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 10.10 am.

Certified correct this 1st day of August 2014

  
Research Director

<b>Correspondence</b>
Letter dated 14 July 2014 from the Leader of the Opposition

<b>Correspondence relating to replacement of committee members</b>
Letter dated 14 July 2014 from the Leader of the Opposition
Letter dated 16 July 2014 from the Leader of the Opposition

HON. ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP  
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION  
MEMBER FOR INALA  
PO Box 15057, City East QLD 4002  
[reception@opposition.qld.gov.au](mailto:reception@opposition.qld.gov.au) (07) 3838 6767

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14 July 2014

Mr Ian Rickuss MP  
Chair  
Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
Cnr George and Alice Streets Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Rickuss

I write regarding the estimates hearings for the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee on 15 and 17 July 2014.

Pursuant to Standing Order 181 (e) I seek leave from the committee to attend the committee hearing and ask questions of the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines and the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Anastacia Palaszczuk", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Annastacia Palaszczuk MP  
**Leader of the Opposition**

HON. ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP  
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION  
MEMBER FOR INALA  
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14 July 2014

Mr Ian Rickuss MP  
Chair  
Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
Cnr George and Alice Streets Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Rickuss

I write regarding the estimates hearing for the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee on 15 July 2014.

In accordance with Standing Order 202 I advise of the inability to attend the committee hearing on 15 July 2014 by the Member for South Brisbane. I have, therefore, appointed the Member for Woodridge to substitute for the member in accordance with the Standing Order for the committee's meeting on that day.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a long horizontal line.

Annastacia Palaszczuk MP  
**Leader of the Opposition**

HON. ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP  
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION  
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16 July 2014

Mr Ian Rickuss MP  
Chair  
Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
Cnr George and Alice Streets Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Rickuss

I write regarding the estimates hearings for the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee on 17 July 2014.

In accordance with Standing Order 202 I advise of the inability to attend the committee hearing on 17 July 2014 by the Member for South Brisbane between 1:30pm and 3:00pm. I have appointed the Member for Redcliffe to substitute for the member in accordance with the Standing Order for the committee's meetings during that period.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Annastacia Palaszczuk", followed by a horizontal line.

Annastacia Palaszczuk MP  
Leader of the Opposition

**Answers to Questions on Notice – Environment and Heritage Protection**

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 1**

**asked on Wednesday, 25 June 2014**

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A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister please explain why the estimated actual position for 2013-14 outlines an operating deficit?

ANSWER:

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's estimated actual position for 2013-14 identifies an operating deficit in the controlled income statement of \$12.1 million. This operating deficit reflects a timing mismatch between revenue recognised in previous years and related expenses incurred during 2013-14.

The revenue received in previous years was for a number of externally funded programs and has been carried forward to 2013-14 as part of the department's cash reserves and is therefore fully funded.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 2**

**asked on Wednesday, 25 June 2014**

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A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister outline which sections of his department had an increase in staffing numbers and explain why compared to the planned budgeted decreases in last year's 2013-14 SDS?

ANSWER:

Staff numbers are continually monitored to ensure employee and other operating costs do not exceed the allocated budget.

In order to meet the government's commitments and business needs the department ended the 2013-14 financial year with a total estimated actual FTE count of 1,011.

This represents an estimated overall increase of 31 FTE's. The increase can be broken down as follows:

- An estimated 12 FTE were allocated within the Conservation Programs as part of implementing the Government's election commitment to improved Crocodile Management in four trial areas in north Queensland. These FTE were located in Cairns, Innisfail and Townsville. Crocodile Management in North Queensland is a three year pilot plan to limit the risks of potential crocodile/human interaction.
- A further 10 FTE were engaged for the Compliance Renewal Program. This is a key project in the EHP Renewal Implementation Plan 2014-2030. These FTE specifically relate to Project Unify within the Compliance Renewal Program. Project Unify will deliver a new Information and Communication Technology system to replace the current Ecotrack system and to help standardise related systems and processes. The FTE were recruited into specialist positions relating to Information Technology and change management roles to provide the necessary skills mix. The Renewal Oversight Committee has recently included the Compliance Renewal Project in the whole-of-government integrated renewal plan. Project Unify has been approved by the Directors-General Council of the Government's ICT Investment Review Framework.
- A further 9 FTE were transferred from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines to EHP in October 2013 as a result of the transfer of business support activities to regional compliance and assessment centres.

A further increase to the 2014-15 Budget figure reflects an additional 15 FTE for coal seam gas regulation, the compliance renewal program and for the assessment of environmental impact statements.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 3**

**asked on Wednesday, 25 June 2014**

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A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister elaborate on why service standard 4 was not achieved and the actions being put in place to meet the new higher target in 2014-15?

ANSWER:

During this financial year, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (the department) has undertaken proactive initial compliance inspections and follow-up site inspections.

Of the proactive follow up inspections, approximately 39% remain as active investigations or are currently the subject of compliance action. The majority of these are in relation to minor non-compliances.

The remaining 61% of proactive follow up activities have now been finalised. To address major non-compliances found during follow up inspections, enforcement actions including penalty infringement notices, environmental protection orders and transitional environmental programs were taken.

Other actions have resulted in operators now being compliant including payment of outstanding annual fees, provision of monitoring reports and implementation of abatement measures which has not required any further inspections to assess compliance.

The implementation of the Compliance Renewal Program including a new information technology model and a targeted, intelligence driven proactive compliance framework will provide improvements in the use and quality of department data and resource allocation.

Improved information collection will enhance the ability of the department to monitor and track changes in customer performance and target the highest risks to the environment. Analysis of this information will allow the department to identify and capitalise on opportunities to work with industry to promote best practice environmental management and self-regulation. These measures will support the achievement of the higher target for 2014-15.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 4**

**asked on Wednesday, 25 June 2014**

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A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister outline what the increase in operating budget this financial year will deliver?

ANSWER:

In 2014-15 the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's controlled operating budget is \$175 million. This is an increase of \$8.4 million on the budget announced last year.

This has been a great result for the environment and the 2014-15 operating budget will deliver:

- \$10 million for the Reef Water Quality Program;
- \$9.1 million for the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program;
- \$5.2 million for Coal Seam Gas industry regulation;
- \$5 million of further funding for Everyone's Environment grant program;
- \$1.7 million in operating funds towards the department's Compliance Renewal Program; and
- \$1.2 million in additional funding for crocodile management.

In 2014-15 the Government is providing new funding of \$7.2 million to the department plus an internal reallocation of \$2.8 million for a total of \$10 million for the continuation of the Reef Water Quality Program.

In total the department will allocate \$50 million over the next five years for this program which will further develop and implement best management practice systems for sugarcane, grazing and bananas through continuing our partnerships with industry, landholders and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers program provides for the participation of indigenous people in protecting the State's environment through funding rangers in regional and remote communities. The Government has provided \$0.8 million in new funds over the next two years for this program.

The 2014-15 budget also provides a further \$5 million in new funding for the Everyone's Environment grant program. This brings funding to a total of \$12 million provided for this program as per the Government's original election commitment. This program aims to improve the health and vitality of Queensland's natural environment through grants to grass roots Queensland community groups for projects focusing on practical local environmental and heritage improvements.

An allocation of \$5.2 million has been allocated for the administration and regulation of the coal seam gas industry. This Government is delivering on its commitment of strong environmental protection in line with community expectations.

Following the outcomes of the Queensland Competition Authority's review of Coal Seam Gas regulation the Government is continuing the reform of the Coal Seam Gas industry regulatory regime and associated fees. These costs are being funded through the increase in environmental authority license fees being applied to higher risk resource industry activities.

The Compliance Renewal Program is fundamental to the department's ongoing renewal and reform agenda. This program will simplify and streamline departmental compliance and assessment functions; including delivering a new Information and Communication Technology system which will also take advantage of recent technology advances. This program has been allocated \$3.8 million in 2014-15 including budget for capital expenditure.

An additional \$1.2 million has been provided for the implementation of the Estuarine Crocodile Management Program bringing the total 2014-15 allocation to \$1.5 million. This funding is part of the three year pilot crocodile management plan in North Queensland. The Plan aims to improve crocodile management with an emphasis on public safety in Hinchinbrook, Cassowary Coast, Cairns and Townsville.

The Government will also continue to deliver on its commitments in relation to Koala protection through koala habitat preservation and disease research.

Nature refuges will continue to be an important element along with the department's direct land acquisition programs to preserve areas of high conservation value and protect the State's biodiversity.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 5**

**asked on Wednesday, 25 June 2014**

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A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister outline the progress on the reef water quality program and its contribution to addressing UNESCO's recommendations regarding the Great Barrier Reef?

ANSWER:

UNESCO has welcomed the progress made under the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan (Reef Plan), and has recommended that the financial investment in Reef Plan is maintained.

The Queensland Government remains committed to the reef's future through its \$55 million investment in the Reef Water Quality (RWQ) Program over the next five years. Of the \$55 million allocated to the program, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) receives \$50 million.

UNESCO's concerns about the future of the reef are being addressed significantly by RWQ Program initiatives to increase adoption of best practice to improve the quality of water coming off agricultural lands in reef catchments.

RWQ has been funding and supporting voluntary best management practice (BMP) systems in cattle grazing and cane growing during 2013 and 2014, and delivering a diverse research and landholder education program to underpin change.

In response to UNESCO's recommendation to address water quality impacts from all uses within the catchment, EHP is now also committed to supporting further implementation of the banana industry BMP, focusing on the Wet Tropics.

EHP has invested \$5.4 million to support the cane and grazing BMPs. Industry facilitators are now engaging with producers on modules covering soil health, grazing land management, and fertilisers and chemicals.

Smartcane BMP was developed by CANEGROWERS. The Reef Plan Independent Science Panel recognised that the module standards reflected current industry standard, but recommended the need to improve to meet Reef Plan's water quality targets and to reduce the risk of coral loss due to crown-of-thorns starfish. The government endorsed the modules subject to industry's commitment to improve the

industry standard by 2017. The sugar industry is now working with government and researchers to validate methods to improve nitrogen use efficiency and reduce nitrogen loss to the reef.

More than 500 enterprises have registered to be involved in the Smartcane BMP program, covering about 65,000 hectares of sugarcane.

The Grazing BMP was developed by a partnership of AgForce, the Fitzroy Basin Association and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), and is currently being delivered in the Burdekin and Fitzroy catchments, the major contributors to sediment loads in the reef lagoon.

The BMP programs are supported by an extension and adoption framework that enables producers to obtain assistance to develop action plans most appropriate for their enterprise needs. Extension support for BMP is provided by industry, DAFF and regional Natural Resource Management bodies.

BMP auditing and accreditation systems enable reported data to be ratified to record on-ground adoption of program principles and standards. Auditing and accreditation will evolve as incentives and market drivers are sought to underpin BMP expansion.

Reef Water Quality program science projects, examining impacts upon the reef of agricultural practices in reef catchments, are being delivered by government, universities and private research institutions.

EHP's \$8.9 million investment to date aims to give producers robust, independent information that will help them reduce fertiliser, herbicide and soil loss, whilst maintaining profitability. Extension tools and services to support changes being targeted through industry BMPs are being developed.

The latest Reef Report Card reflects the value of practice change. Improved management practices by landholders is improving the quality of water entering the reef. Reef Water Quality's science program will next focus research on priority gaps in knowledge, particularly nutrient, and erosion management, helping EHP validate the game-changing practices needed to reach Reef Plan's water quality targets.

EHP provides \$2 million annually to DAFF to support practice change through extension programs, and the BMPs. EHP and DAFF are also working with industry and agronomic and extension experts to better co-ordinate extension resources and implement the support needed to move producers to best practice and achieve the reef water quality targets.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 6**

**asked on Wednesday, 25 June 2014**

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A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION—

QUESTION:

What is the Queensland Government doing to report on the health of our waterways in the Mackay region and ensure there is baseline information for Abbot Point before dredging starts, and will the information be made publicly available?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is committed to honest, open and accountable reporting on the health of our waterways.

Building on the successes of the Healthy Waterways Report Card in south east Queensland, the Great Barrier Reef Report Card and the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection are expanding the report card program to cover new areas along Queensland's coast.

The next report card to be developed will be for the Mackay-Whitsunday Region which will report on the catchments of the Don, O'Connell, Proserpine, Pioneer and Plane basins, the urban area of Mackay, the ports of Abbot Point, Mackay and Hay Point, marinas and the coastal marine area.

The key characteristics of report cards are openness, transparency and independence. This new report card will help set a baseline for the region around Abbot Point so the community can have access to information about impacts on water quality before and during dredging.

The Queensland Government is aware that there is often a sense of mistrust of Government and industry reporting among the general community. Report cards are delivered through independent science giving greater public confidence in the subject matter. They are an excellent way of engaging with the local community and media to communicate key waterway health issues and provide a holistic picture of cumulative impacts. This helps to avoid some of the misinformation caused by selective reporting of certain impacts while ignoring the bigger picture. Report cards are supported and delivered with sound science to report on waterway health and help develop priorities for action.

The process to design and develop a report card involves the community, and builds on their aspirations for their local waterways. It is about collaboration as much as it is about communication.

In the Mackay-Whitsunday region, partners have already come together to agree on the scope of the program and have committed to employing a technical officer to begin the program design work. Partners have agreed to the objectives of the new program. The Mackay-Whitsunday Report Card will:

- communicate information effectively and at a relevant scale to the broader community on waterway health issues with scientific integrity, independence and transparency;
- support decision making for management activities and interventions, model outcomes and report on effectiveness; and
- be specific to the Mackay-Whitsunday region whilst being consistent with other regional waterway report cards including Healthy Waterways in south east Queensland, the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership and the Fitzroy River Partnership.

The Queensland Government has committed to providing \$50,000 to Reef Catchments and North Queensland Dry Tropics regional natural resource management bodies to help employ technical officers to develop the report card program design and start work to release a report card as soon as possible.

North Queensland Bulk Ports which manages the ports in the region is a critical partner and is committed to open reporting of information about Abbot Point, Mackay and Hay Point ports.

North Queensland Bulk Ports has committed to providing up to \$100,000 in addition to the Government's contribution to employ the technical officers. The technical officers will establish the program design to integrate the range of existing monitoring occurring in the region, recommending where this needs to be augmented to fill any critical gaps.

By beginning the technical work early, an initial report card should be available within 12 months. The report card will be based on existing water quality data at first and will be developed through a staged approach over several years to become a fully comprehensive report card.

I am also pleased that the Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts has agreed to move a number of estuarine monitoring sites to the region to fill one of the important information gaps. This will provide a valuable information resource that complements the existing reporting through the Reef Report Card, providing more locally specific data and allowing partners to more effectively prioritise strategic management actions to continually improve waterway health.

Over time, the Government will have a range of local report cards such as for Gladstone Harbour, Mackay-Whitsundays and future areas along the coast which are aligned and comparable, complementing the broader Reef Report Card.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 7**

**asked on Wednesday, 25 June 2014**

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A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION—

QUESTION:

Minister, the Auditor General's report identified a number of perceived flaws within the department's compliance framework. Would you like to comment on how the department is working to improve service delivery to customers?

ANSWER:

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection is committed to being the best environmental regulator in the country and to providing excellent customer service.

The department is modernising its IT systems to provide more efficient service delivery and to make dealing with the department easier for customers. When it is fully implemented, in 2015-16, customers will be able to lodge applications for licences and permits online, receive 'instant' approvals for low risk activities and track and manage their applications themselves.

As well as making dealing with the department easier for customers, the IT solution will enable much better processing and analysis of data that is received. This will allow the department's compliance and enforcement activities to be informed by the best-available information so that they are targeted at the issues that pose the greatest risk to the environment. It will also allow for early identification of, and action on, emerging environmental problems and risk.

The department's Regulatory Strategy is driving the way it does business, with its emphasis on reducing green tape while maintaining environmental standards, and giving businesses the freedom to find the environmental solutions that best suit the circumstances. By enlarge, business is committed to meeting its obligations to the environment.

The department will continue its work to develop licence conditions that clearly set the environmental outcomes that businesses must achieve, but that do not tie them down in needless detail about how to run their operations.

The model conditions already developed by the department – for activities such as sewage treatment plants, landfills and quarries – have already reduced the amount

of time taken by departmental officers to assess licence applications by up to 20%, meaning faster approvals for customers.

For those customers who also require approvals under the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the approvals bilateral that will be signed later in the year with the Commonwealth Government will result in a one-stop-shop for environmental approvals and lead to a quicker, more streamlined approvals process.

The Productivity Commission recently found that each day's delay in obtaining an environmental approval can cost a large resource project \$300,000, so the department's work to speed up the approvals process will have a direct and significant impact on the State's economy.

Further evidence of the department's commitment to improving customer service can be found in the time savings for petroleum and gas approvals. The legislation allows 30 business days to process these types of applications. Between 1 Jan 2014 and 30 June 2014, assessment times for new standard approvals (approvals for low-risk activities) averaged 5-25 days under the statutory limit. For minor amendments the average turnaround time was 17 business days or 13 business days under the standard.

The department recently conducted a 'mystery shopper' exercise to assess the levels of customer satisfaction with the department's service. The department scored very well across all communication channels – phone, email and online – with ratings of between 83 and 91%. This indicates that customer service is at the forefront of the way departmental staff conduct their business, and is a part of the department's ethos.

The department disagreed with the Auditor-General's finding that the department is failing to provide a satisfactory level of service, and the above initiatives show the department's commitment to providing excellent customer service while fulfilling our mission of managing Queensland's environment and heritage now and into the future.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 8**

**asked on Wednesday, 25 June 2014**

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A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister explain why the SDS refers to a budgeted increase of \$8 million for user charges and fees this financial year?

ANSWER:

This Government strives to reduce regulatory red-tape, reduce the cost of regulation to industry and the community through efficiencies and new innovations, but also better align fees to recover the costs of regulation.

Under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* environmentally relevant activities require an operating license known as an environmental authority. Queensland's environmental authority fees can be broken down into two key categories: application fees and annual fees.

Application fees are generally intended to cover the administrative costs directly associated with lodging, assessing and deciding applications for environmental authorities. Annual fees are for ongoing regulation of activities licensed under the environmental authority including monitoring compliance.

Annual license fees for higher risk resource industry related activities, those with an aggregate environmental score of 120 or greater, will be increased. Those fees will increase by 50% each year over four years, commencing in 2014-15, to recover the regulatory costs associated with the administration and compliance monitoring of these activities.

Application fees for site specific environmental authorities and fees for major amendments will also be increased to improve cost recovery in relation to these higher risk activities.

The department has also re-categorised Environmental Impact Statement assessment fees from administered revenue to controlled revenue from 1 July 2015 to better reflect their nature as user charges to recover the costs of assessment.

The remainder of the increase for environmental license fees largely reflects the annual Government indexation of fees to take effect from 1 July.

While interstate cost comparisons are difficult, Queensland's annual fees for environmentally relevant activities are lower than other eastern seaboard states and will remain cost competitive.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 9**

**asked on Wednesday, 25 June 2014**

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A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister outline how the government ensures communities are not adversely impacted by mine water discharges?

ANSWER:

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection actively manages mine affected water releases to ensure the protection of the community and the environment.

The robust and transparent actions by the department, in conjunction with other State Government departments around the assessment and monitoring of mine-affected water releases, supports the vision to make Queensland a world leader in industry regulation, environmental practice, social responsibility and in industry research, development and innovation.

To further support this vision, in November 2012 the Queensland Government introduced an Enhanced Mine Water Release Pilot (the Pilot) to assess the impacts of modified release conditions across four mines, in an effort to improve the legacy issues impacting mines in the Fitzroy Basin.

The Pilot provides protection to local environmental values such as stock, domestic and irrigation supplies located downstream of mine water release points through the requirement for mines to conduct a detailed assessment of the localised impacts of these releases.

The Pilot identifies acceptable water quality limits for downstream locations that are subject to cumulative impacts from mine affected water releases and requires mines to participate in an enhanced monitoring program to monitor impacts from those releases.

This initial Pilot was a success with an independent review finding that releases had no material impact on water quality in the lower Fitzroy River and did not impact on drinking water supplies.

The Queensland Government extended the Pilot to other suitable coal mines in the Fitzroy Basin during the 2013-14 wet season with the addition of Blackwater Mine, Gregory Crinum Mine, Oaky Creek Mine and Ensham Mine. There are currently eight coal mines operating under the Pilot.

The department is also committed to informing the public about mine-affected water releases through the provision of detailed information about all mine affected water releases in the Fitzroy Basin, which is made available via the Queensland Governments Fitzroy River website at [www.fitzroyriver.qld.gov.au](http://www.fitzroyriver.qld.gov.au). Information about stream flow and water quality in the Fitzroy Basin can also be accessed on the Fitzroy River website via the 'water quality information' portal.

The department has also developed an interactive mapping tool and incorporated it into the department's website. This provides a visual representation of mine water locations and estimated travel time (measured in days) for mine-affected water releases from the relevant mine to Rockhampton.

As part of the Enhanced Mine Water Release Pilot, the department has encouraged the use of Reverse Osmosis technology by mines in the Fitzroy Basin to facilitate the release of high quality treated water. Reverse Osmosis water releases have shown to be a viable methodology and have contributed significantly to the total release volumes from mines this wet season.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 10**

**asked on Wednesday, 25 June 2014**

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A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister outline the Government's plans for the wild rivers legislation in the next financial year?

ANSWER:

The Government is committed to the continued protection of the environmental values of the current wild rivers areas.

The discredited Wild Rivers Act is being repealed and improved protective measures will be delivered through regional plans under the *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014*.

It should be noted that on 17 June 2014, the Federal Court ruled that the decision to declare the Archer, Stewart, and Lockhart basins as wild river areas was invalid due to procedural errors of the previous Labor government.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

No. 1

asked on Wednesday, 25 June 2014

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A NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 21 of the Budget Measures statement and the allocation funding to reef water quality programs, will the Minister:

- (a) Detail the amount of funding expended by his department in the 2012-13 and 2013-14 financial years under the \$175 million contribution to the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2009 initiated by the former Labor state and federal governments;
- (b) List all projects funded under the plan in the 2012-13 and 2013-14 financial years, the individual cost of each project, its purpose and geographic location;
- (c) Provide the number of staff working on projects under the plan in each of the 2012-13 and 2013-14 financial years;
- (d) Detail the amount of funding expected to be expended by his department in 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 under the Government's \$175 million contribution to the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2013;
- (e) List all projects expected to be funded under the plan, the projected individual cost of each project, its purpose and geographic location; and
- (f) Provide the number of staff projected to be working on projects under the plan in each of the 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18?

ANSWER:

- (a) In 2013-14 the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) invested approximately \$14 million in reef initiatives under the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan (Reef Plan), contributing to the Queensland Government's annual \$35 million commitment to reef water quality. 2012-13 data has not been provided as it does not relate to the 2014-15 Budget.
- (b) A list of EHP reef initiatives within the 2013-14 investment is outlined in Table 1. 2012-13 data has not been provided as it does not relate to the 2014-15 Budget.

Table 1: EHP reef initiatives and expenditure in 2013-14

REEF INITIATIVE – DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION	2013-14 (\$M)
<p><b>Reef Water Quality Program</b> This program has been working with the sugarcane and grazing industries to help improve producers' land management practices, which in turn will improve water quality entering the reef. This program is operating in all Great Barrier Reef catchments, with an existing legislative emphasis in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin and Fitzroy catchments. The program includes building the evidence base and making information available to producers.</p>	10.7
<p><b>Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership</b> The health of Gladstone Harbour will be assessed and reported through an annual report card.</p>	2.0
<p><b>Coastal Planning</b> The Coastal Management Plan provides non-regulatory policy to manage coastal areas. Coastal erosion and hazard mitigation advice is provided to coastal land managers, mostly coastal councils.</p>	0.2
<p><b>Queensland Wetlands Program</b> The program supports projects and programs that enhance how Queensland's wetlands, including those in the Great Barrier Reef catchment, are managed sustainably. Tools, data and information are shared on the department's web site <i>WetlandInfo</i>.</p>	0.2
<p><b>Environmental Values</b> This activity aids land management by identifying and mapping local-scale environmental values, water quality objectives and aquatic ecosystems in key reef catchments and associated coastal waters. While covering all Reef catchments there is particular focus on the Wet Tropics, Capricorn Curtis Coast, Mackay and Galilee Basin.</p>	0.3
<p><b>Nature Refuges</b> The Nature Refuge program is a voluntary biodiversity protection program enabling landholders, through a covenant, to establish a nature refuge on their property. Properties declared during this period were located in Bundaberg region, Cook shire and North Burnett regions.</p>	0.05
<p><b>Reef Plan Oversight and Support</b> Coordinating the department's actions and deliverables under Reef Plan, applying to all reef catchments.</p>	0.1
<p><b>Everyone's Environment grants related to Reef Water Quality outcomes</b> Grants are supporting cleaning up creeks and waterways, rehabilitating and restoring degraded local waterways, and water quality monitoring in reef catchments.</p>	0.13
<p><b>Statutory Planning Input</b> Providing technical advice about the department's interests in preparing planning and development instruments across the State.</p>	0.05
<p><b>Reef Water Quality Offsets</b> Establish a Queensland Environmental Offset Framework covering policy, guidelines and associated necessary legislative amendment. The investment identified is a part of the overall Offset Framework project.</p>	0.1
<p><b>Comprehensive Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment</b> Details of the government's Great Barrier Reef coastal zone management program, and its specific commitments to protect matters of national environmental significance.</p>	0.4
<p><b>TOTAL</b></p>	14.23

- (c) The equivalent of 30.65 staff work on projects relating to reef initiatives. It should be noted that EHP provides funding to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) to employ staff under the Reef Water Quality Program.
- (d) The Queensland Government has committed to maintain the existing \$35 million annual budget allocation to reef initiatives. EHP will invest approximately \$13.4 million in the 2014-15 financial year. Budget allocations for the 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 financial year periods can be confirmed prior to the beginning of each financial year.
- (e) A list of EHP reef initiatives within the 2014-15 investment is outlined in Table 3. Details of reef initiatives for the 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 financial year periods can be confirmed prior to the beginning of each financial year.

**Table 3: EHP reef initiatives and expenditure in 2014-15**

<b>REEF INITIATIVE – DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION</b>	<b>2014-15 (\$M)</b>
<b>Reef Water Quality Program</b> (as above)	10
<b>Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership</b> (as above)	2.0
<b>Coastal Planning</b> (as above)	0.2
<b>Wetlands Program</b> (as above)	0.2
<b>Environmental Values</b> (as above)	0.3
<b>Statutory Planning Input</b> (as above)	0.1
<b>Reef Water Quality Offsets</b> (as above)	0.1
<b>Comprehensive Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment</b> (as above)	0.1
<b>GBR 2050: Long-term Sustainability Plan</b> A component of the comprehensive strategic assessment, the long-term sustainability plan provides an overall framework for protecting and managing the Reef World Heritage Area.	0.3
<b>Reef Trust</b> The Reef Trust, a new funding initiative to consolidate investments in the Great Barrier Reef, will deliver funds strategically to improve the Great Barrier Reef's health and resilience. It expands and complements existing Australian and Queensland governments programs. After the initial \$40 million investment by the Australian Government to Reef Trust, both governments will pool funds received from offsets. The department will help co-ordinate Reef Trust projects.	0.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13.4</b>

- (f) The equivalent of 31.35 staff will work on projects relating to reef initiatives in 2014-15. It should be noted that EHP provides funding to DAFF to employ staff under the Reef Water Quality Program. Staff numbers for the 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 financial year periods can be confirmed prior to the beginning of each financial year.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 2**

**asked on Wednesday, 25 June 2014**

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A NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 67 of the Budget Measures statement and the government's decision to increase environmental authority licence fees, will the Minister provide a complete list of the environmental authorities which will be increased including;

- (a) The current fee for each authority
- (b) The number of individual environmental authorities issued, broken down by type?

ANSWER:

In accordance with Standing Order No. 182, a complete list of environmental authorities, their current fees, and activity type has not been provided as the information sought represents an unreasonable research requirement on the Environment and Heritage Protection portfolio.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 3**

**asked on Wednesday, 25 June 2014**

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A NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 67 of the Budget Measures statement and the government's decision to increase assessment fees for environmental impact statements, will the Minister detail the current fees, the size of the increase and the number of assessments projected for each of the 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 financial years?

ANSWER:

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection administers environmental impact statements for resource projects under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. Proponents pay an assessment fee when they submit draft terms of reference to the department and another for assessing the project environmental impact statement.

From 1 July 2014, the assessment fee increased by \$70,000. The increase helps the department to cover the costs associated with assessing and approving project impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance that were previously carried out by the Commonwealth Government. Both governments are committed to finalising and signing an Approvals Bilateral Agreement later this year. This will deliver on a commitment to a 'one stop shop' for environmental approvals for resource projects that will greatly reduce administrative duplication, as well as cutting holding costs and approval timeframes for project proponents.

While the timing of submissions is largely proponent driven, the department is likely to complete nine assessments in 2014-2015. Where environmental impact statements were submitted before 1 July 2014, projects will be unaffected by the new fee. At least three projects should commence assessment in 2014-2015. The number of environmental impact statements after that time will depend on global commodity prices, ease of access to capital and the discovery of new minerals and gas deposits.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 4**

**asked on Wednesday, 25 June 2014**

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A NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 2 of the SDS and the strategic challenge the department faces in balancing environmental, social and economic outcomes; did the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection develop a submission summary on the proposed revocations of wild rivers? If so will the Minister release the summary and, if not, will the Minister publicly release the submissions received by his department?

ANSWER:

The Government is committed to the continued protection of the environmental values of the current wild rivers areas.

The discredited Wild Rivers Act is being repealed and improved protective measures will be delivered through regional plans under the *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014*.

It should be noted that on 17 June 2014, the Federal Court ruled that the decision to declare the Archer, Stewart, and Lockhart basins as wild river areas was invalid due to procedural errors of the previous Labor government.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 5**

**asked on Wednesday, 25 June 2014**

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A NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 16 of the SDS and the \$18.4 million underspend in land acquisitions which follows a similar \$17.7 million in 2012-13; will the Minister account for the accumulated \$36.1 million underspend and explain whether this funding has been returned to Treasury or whether it will actually be used to expand the protected area estate?

ANSWER:

The purported underspend is due to the thorough analysis and preparation required to ensure the most effective conservation outcomes are achieved with the available funds. All land allocations unspent in 2012-13 carried forward to the 2013-14 budget. It is therefore not an accumulated underspend, but effectively the same funding being carried forward. None of this funding has been returned to Treasury. The amounts quoted, while primarily for land acquisitions, include a number of other capital items.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

No. 6

asked on Wednesday, 25 June 2014

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A NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 3 of the SDS and the development of a new waste strategy, will the Minister provide;

- (a) a breakdown of the running costs towards the Queensland Waste Data System
- (b) a list of all staff working on waste management programs within EHP including their position title and geographic location?

ANSWER:

- (a) Running costs towards the Queensland Waste Data System amount to a total of \$150,666.

It should be noted that the period July–December 2013 was attributed to system development, with staff expenses for the period January–June 2014.

- (b) Table 2 provides a list of staff currently employed by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) to work on waste management programs including their position title and geographical location.

**Table 2: EHP staff working on waste management programs**

Position Title	Location
Director	Brisbane
Manager	
Manager	
Manager	
Project Manager	
Senior Project Officer	
Senior Project Officer	
Senior Project Officer	
Team Leader	
Team Leader	
Project Officer	
Project Officer	

Project Officer	
Project Officer	
Principal Policy Officer	
Senior Policy Officer	
Senior Policy Officer	
Policy Officer	

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 7**

**asked on Wednesday, 25 June 2014**

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A NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 12 of the SDS and performance measure “Proportion of monitored licensed operators returned to compliance”, will the Minister provide a list of other methods of assessing whether a facility returns to compliance other than site inspections and provide the estimated figure for 2013-14 according to the new criteria?

ANSWER:

Other methods used by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection to assess whether a facility returns to compliance other than site inspections include:

- photos provided by the licensed operator of the site and works completed;
- odour assessments at locations outside the licensed site;
- desktop audits of information reports provided by the licensed operator;
- payment of outstanding annual fees and completion of annual return;
- written advice provided by the operator to the department regarding installation of equipment or measures implemented to rectify non-compliance;
- provision of outstanding monitoring data by operator to the department;
- receipt and approval of updated site based management plans;
- approval of applications for amendments to conditions of environmental authorities; and
- approval of a transitional environmental program to achieve compliance with a condition of an environmental authority.

Since the budget papers were printed, further analysis of departmental records has revealed additional sites were in compliance. The estimated figure for 2013-14 according to the new criteria is 52% of sites returned to compliance.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

No. 8

asked on Wednesday, 25 June 2014

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A NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 12 of the SDS and the increase in land gazetted as nature refuges, will the Minister provide a list of land gazetted as nature refuge in 2013-14 including the location and size of the property?

ANSWER:

In 2013-2014, a net amount of 449,412 hectares was added to the nature refuge estate. This represents an actual increase of 13% achieved. This increase exceeds the annual target of a 2.8% increase.

The list below details the new nature refuges, or extensions to the area of existing nature refuges, gazetted in 2013-2014 and location.

NAME OF NATURE REFUGE	AREA (HECTARES)	BIOREGION LOCATION
A&T Koala Billabong Nature Refuge	2	Southeast Queensland
Ballara Nature Refuge	174916	Northwest Highlands
Berrinba Wetlands Nature Refuge	39	Southeast Queensland
Braehead Nature Refuge	1	Southeast Queensland
Brian Burke Reserve Nature Refuge	268	Southeast Queensland
Chidna Nature Refuge	8307	Northwest Highlands
Crystalvale Nature Refuge	25972	Cape York Peninsula
Danroben Nature Refuge	4	Southeast Queensland
Dawson Road Nature Refuge	5	Southeast Queensland
Dinah Island Nature Refuge	5180	Gulf Plains
Fern Tree Nature Refuge	2558	Brigalow Belt
Hinze Dam Numinbah Nature Refuge	264	Southeast Queensland
Koallaby Nature Refuge	10	Southeast Queensland
Koolena Nature Refuge	5	Southeast Queensland
Kurwongbah Park Nature Refuge	12	Southeast Queensland
Pelham Springs Nature Refuge	22	Gulf Plains
Piccaninny Plains Nature Refuge	169000	Cape York Peninsula

Rivendell Nature Refuge	9	Southeast Queensland
Rock Rose Nature Refuge	5	New England Tableland
Roxy Nature Refuge	56	Central Queensland Coast
Shylo Nature Refuge	206	Central Queensland Coast
Somerset-Wivenhoe Dams Nature Refuge	9	Southeast Queensland
South Endeavour Nature Refuge	2380	Cape York Peninsula
South Head Nature Refuge	14554	Gulf Plains
Stewartdale Nature Refuge	969	Southeast Queensland
Sticky Gully Nature Refuge	131	Southeast Queensland
Stoney Edge Nature Refuge	10	Southeast Queensland
Strathtay Nature Refuge	37422	Einasleigh Uplands
Stuart Springs Nature Refuge	1705	Gulf Plains
The 1959 Nature Refuge	7141	Mulga Lands

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 9**

**asked on Wednesday, 25 June 2014**

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A NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 50 of the Capital Statement and page 3 of the SDS which both detail the Compliance Renewal Program, will the Minister explain why the cost of the program is listed as \$4.7 million in the Capital Statement and \$8.7 million in the SDS? Further, will the Minister provide a detailed breakdown for each element of the program including its cost in each financial year, purpose and the number of staff allocated? Will the Minister also provide a detailed breakdown of the compliance role proposed for private certifiers and auditors, and will this component of the Compliance Renewal Program result in a reduction of departmental staff allocated to compliance?

ANSWER:

- (1) The \$8.7 million funding over three years, outlined in the SDS, includes capital and operating expenses to deliver a replacement corporate system by 2016. The Compliance Renewal Program, together with internal change management initiatives, will underpin a major transformation of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's business, which will lead to a more outward facing, customer centred agency.

Page 50 of the Capital Statement includes only the capital expenses of a total \$4.7 million over three years which relate to professional services provided by external software vendors as well as department staff costs directly related to system development.

- (2) The Compliance Renewal Program comprises three projects; Project Unify will replace a significant at-risk application with a new IT platform. It will transition the department to a new technology model and significantly simplify the systems and processes. The Certifier/Auditor Framework Project will investigate a framework for introducing contestability and harnessing private sector expertise, working alongside the department to deliver environmental compliance functions. The Compliance Framework Project will deliver standardised system workflows to give effect to the redesigned compliance framework enhancing the department's role as an environmental regulator. The Certifier/Auditor Framework Project and the Compliance Framework Project have outcomes that will be enabled by Project Unify.

The cost in Year 1 (2013-14) of the Program was \$1.57 million, with 12 staff allocated as at 30 June 2014 following a number of recruitment processes completed late in the financial year. Year 2 costs are \$3.82 million in 2014-15, including 18 staff. In Year 3 (2015-16), the cost is \$3.31 million and a total of 20 staff.

- (3) The Certifier/Auditor Framework Project is focused at delivering amended legislation that will provide for mandating the use of environmental auditors for particular functions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act) by 2016. This project will investigate the options for use of environmental auditors in providing reports to support applications and assess compliance and environmental harm under the EP Act. It will not result in a reduction of departmental staff allocated to compliance.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 10**

**asked on Wednesday, 25 June 2014**

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A NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise if Councils that are experiencing ongoing restrictions concerning removal of flying foxes from their towns, will be given permission to cull?

ANSWER:

The government will monitor the success of the new framework over time and if monitoring indicates that further measures are needed, they will be considered as appropriate.

**Answers to Questions on Notice – Natural Resources and Mines**

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING  
GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1

asked on 25 June 2014

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ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES  
(MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

In regard to Water Resources (page 10 of the SDS) can the Minister explain how the Department has responded to the recent Queensland Ombudsman's Water Licences Report?

ANSWER:

The Ombudsman's final report 'The Water Licences Report' was tabled in Parliament on 7 May 2014. The report highlights various administrative deficiencies in historical water licence decision-making processes—for example, a failure to consider whether or not the proposed water use is efficient.

These failings happened under the previous government, and it is appropriate that certainty is restored for the water users of Queensland.

This government has initiated a number of significant reforms to address deficiencies highlighted in the Ombudsman's report. Legislative amendments included in the *Land and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014* will validate particular water licence decisions in Queensland and will restore certainty for existing entitlement holders.

In March 2014, a review of water legislation in Queensland was announced. The review will address and clarify administrative decision-making processes raised by the Ombudsman. The review will progress substantial amendments to the *Water Act 2000* to move from the current focus of regulation and administrative decision making to establishing open and transparent market-based frameworks by which water entitlements can be bought and sold.

The review will also focus on ensuring the water licensing framework provides a clear and easy-to-understand decision-making process.

To support the review, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines is significantly transforming its water business. This transformation covers all aspects of the water business, including the department's business processes and information systems.

As a part of this, the department has undertaken a review of operational policies. The revised policies are focused towards empowering regional officers in making decisions that are customer focused, instead of trying to adhere to a one-size-fits-all approach. The department is also providing the necessary training and support for good administrative decision-making processes under the Water Act.

To address the particular issues highlighted in the Ombudsman's report, a targeted review of the Barron water resource plan and resource operations plan is being undertaken to address issues of fairness. This will include a review of licence volumes issued between 2002 and 2006.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 2**

**asked on 25 June 2014**

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ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES (MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

I refer to page 2 of the SDS and ask, can the Minister outline the DNRM Blueprint and what it means for economic development in Queensland?

ANSWER:

The blueprint is the Department of Natural Resources and Mines' response to the Queensland Government's vision for responsible and productive use of Queensland's land, water, mineral and energy resources for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

The blueprint describes the department's identity—what it is; what it will do, how it will do it and why.

The department has three strategic priorities or areas of focus for its effort and energy over the next three to five years:

- power-up regional Queensland and the economy;
- deliver customer-focused design and delivery of services; and
- be the best natural resources agency in Australia.

This combination of a clear role as an economic development agency and its realisation with a focus on regional Queensland, customers and excellence in resource management makes the Department of Natural Resources and Mines an engine-room for economic development.

As steward of the resources sector and as manager of land and water, the department's performance is integral to two of the four pillars of the Queensland economy—the resources sector and agriculture.

The department has already delivered changes that lay the foundation for further economic development in Queensland, including:

- reforms to the vegetation management framework, which have paved the way for a new generation of agriculture projects;
- reforms for rural leasehold land, which have brought increased security of tenure, and certainty for tourism and rural businesses; and
- the ResourcesQ initiative to shape a 30-year vision for the resources sector, which will help Queensland to grow this economic pillar and help deliver a brighter future for rural and regional Queensland.

The blueprint also identifies the three key activities the department will use to help it realise the blueprint vision, namely: modernising the regulatory framework; improving business systems; and developing the people in the department.

When the blueprint was released in April, copies were sent to stakeholders with a letter explaining that the department had been challenged to partner with customers to deliver innovative and practical solutions to develop Queensland resources and strengthen the economy.

Efforts are firmly fixed on the responsible and productive use of natural resources and the growth and prosperity of Queenslanders—the blueprint describes how that will be achieved.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 3**

**asked on 25 June 2014**

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ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES  
(MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

I refer to page 4 of the SDS. Can the Minister update the committee on the ResourcesQ initiative and the progress being made to craft a 30 year vision for the sector?

ANSWER:

ResourcesQ is the vehicle through which the Queensland Government is engaging with the resources sector to develop a long-term vision for the industry. The 30-year vision and accompanying action plan will recognise the challenges and opportunities facing Queensland's dynamic resources sector, and will ensure all Queenslanders prosper from resources now and in the future.

To underpin the industry engagement process, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines commissioned a foresight study that examined the key trends guiding the resources sector over the next 30 years. The foresight study was completed by CSIRO and the University of Queensland, and findings were used to drive discussion at seven industry workshops held around Queensland during April, May and June this year.

Combined, these events have attracted the attendance of almost 400 industry leaders from various companies, councils and government agencies associated with the resources sector. The feedback received from those involved in the workshops has been overwhelmingly positive. The workshops have provided the ResourcesQ initiative with a vast amount of information and feedback to support development of the vision and action plan.

In parallel, the Queensland Government has signed a partnership agreement with peak industry bodies, and has appointed a partnership group to support the policy development process. The landmark agreement affirms the commitment of the government and industry to work together in developing and delivering the 30-year vision. The agreement includes a range of immediate actions that industry considers priorities for government attention.

The partnership group is a panel of industry experts who bring with them grounding in the commercial realities of the industry and a wealth of experience. The group has been providing valuable strategic input to the drafting of the vision and action plan, and its input will continue through until September.

Feedback received has been analysed through these various engagement channels, and the draft vision for consultation with the broader community has been prepared. A document was released for consultation on 7 July and closes on 4 August 2014. Queenslanders are encouraged to take the time to read, and provide comments on, the analysis so far. This feedback is vital to delivering a vision and action plan that reflects the community's expectations for, and of, the resources sector.

Following the public consultation process, the final vision and action plan will be released in late September 2014. This will focus the government and industry over the long term to achieve the goal of creating a strong, agile and diverse resources sector.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 4**

**asked on 25 June 2014**

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ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES  
(MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister detail just how the Queensland resource sector and our explorers in particular will benefit from recommendations contained in the recent MACE report mentioned in the SDS on page 4?

ANSWER:

In October 2013, the formation of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Exploration was announced. The committee's role is to provide direct feedback from industry on Queensland's exploration performance.

As well as representatives from the four peak stakeholder organisations and company representatives actively exploring in Queensland, national and international markets were invited to provide their views.

Committee members were asked for direction on how to position Queensland as the best-performing exploration jurisdiction in Australia and to identify practical measures for improvements within the Natural Resources and Mines portfolio.

In just seven months, the committee has provided me with a report that guides us to this goal.

The committee called on the Queensland Government to:

- make land available for exploration—with a clear strategy for land release, and a mix of cash and non-cash tender opportunities;
- deliver high-level, world-class geoscience—by growing investment in geological survey data;
- grow and expand greenfield incentives—by increasing current incentives and developing new incentives to leverage new discoveries; and
- build in flexibility—with a regulatory framework that reflects the exploration methodology and the prospectivity of the area explored.

There were also strong messages to cut exploration costs and improve customer service.

Advice received from the committee has been acted on.

A Tenure Reform Taskforce has been formed to revitalise the current tenure framework to promote exploration, development and economic growth, covering all facets of resources projects from exploration and retention to production.

The taskforce will deliver practical changes to ensure the existing tenure framework is replaced with one that is timely, transparent, predictable, flexible, efficient and objective.

The benefits of these reforms will mean resource companies can get on the ground faster, tenures will be more flexible to meet company needs and will reflect operating conditions, and service standards will be more transparent and predictable.

Critically rethinking and reforming the tenure framework will be fundamental to successfully supporting the current resource industry and growing the next generation of resource projects in Queensland.

The committee's recommendations related to streamlining are being incorporated into a streamlining program to cut costs for explorers and to reduce red tape.

One of the key messages from the committee is that Queensland has what it takes to be a world-class exploration jurisdiction, but the Queensland Government needs to put more energy into promoting this locally and on the world stage.

A marketing strategy is being developed to promote Queensland as a resource investment destination.

A number of the committee's recommendations reflect the outcomes sought through the ResourcesQ initiative and, as such, will be developed further through this initiative.

The ResourcesQ initiative is a partnership with the resources sector to develop a shared vision for Queensland resources over the next 30 years and, importantly, an action plan to achieve that vision.

Critical to the initiative is a robust and enduring partnership between the government and industry. Industry will be engaged to ensure that the policy is set to allow the resources sector to operate in a way that is responsible, innovative and competitive.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 5**

**asked on 25 June 2014**

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ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES  
(MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

I refer to page 11 of the SDS and ask how have the reformed vegetation management codes contributed to the economic development of Queensland?

ANSWER:

The new self-assessable vegetation management codes were introduced in December 2013 as part of the Queensland Government's reforms to reduce red tape and streamline the vegetation management framework. Landholders no longer have to apply to the government for development approval for routine land management activities—such as weed management, installing property infrastructure and clearing to provide fodder for stock—all of which could take up to two months to approve.

Landholders now only have to notify the Department of Natural Resources and Mines of what they intend to do prior to getting on with the job. As of June 2014, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines had received 697 notifications from 403 individual landholders. Through the notification system, the self-assessable codes have saved landowners approximately 1398 calendar months, or 116½ years in time and opportunity.

In addition, landholders undertaking routine land management consistent with the self-assessable codes are now no longer limited to the previous five-year permit life. This requirement has been replaced with the new self-assessable notifications lasting as long as the landholder owns the land. This delivers a cost saving of \$650 per landholder for each five-year period, a total saving of around \$453,000 by landholders as of June 2014.

Additionally, the self-assessable codes have supported landholders across the state who wish to improve the agricultural efficiency on their property, or to expand for agriculture in areas with high-value regrowth. The codes have resulted in a further 5765 hectares of land being made available for agricultural crops and have directly contributed to one of Queensland's key economic pillars.

The self-assessable codes, as well as the broader vegetation management reforms, are actively supporting and growing agriculture, and the Queensland Government's goal of doubling the value of agricultural production by 2040. This, in turn, is contributing to the economic development of Queensland.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 6**

**asked on 25 June 2014**

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ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES  
(MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister explain how his aggressive approach to red tape reduction, mentioned on page 11 of the SDS, has reduced the time taken for companies to be granted exploration permits?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government's investment in streamlining approvals processes—through the development of its online tenure application and management system MyMines Online—is starting to pay dividends.

There is no better evidence of this than the time taken to grant an exploration permit for minerals when using the new MyMines Online system.

Since the release of electronic lodgement for exploration permits on 28 October 2012, there have been 587 EPM applications lodged. Of those, 346 (82%) have been decided, on average within the published service standard of 12 months, 216 (36%) remain under assessment and within the client service standard and 30 (5%) are undecided falling outside the published service standard as they are either ranked applications or undergoing a native title process.

This is a concrete result of the efficiencies delivered by the streamlining processes and the MyMines Online system.

This has been achieved by examining every process involved and setting performance standards for processing times. For example, applicants for exploration permits for minerals are now formally advised within 90 days of lodgement whether or not their work program is approved, which means applicants can start the required native title and land access processes earlier, reducing overall time to grant.

Further impressive reductions have been made in reducing the time taken on high-volume transactions, such as transfers, and the registration of mortgages, caveats and agreements. Under the old paper-based system, these transactions took a considerable time to process and tied up valuable staff time which could otherwise be used to undertake higher-value assessment tasks. By automating many of the functions through MyMines Online, time frames have been slashed. The time taken to process non-assessable transfers has fallen by 99 per cent, while the time taken to process assessable transfers has reduced by 85 per cent. The times taken to register a mortgage, caveat or agreement have all reduced by above 96 per cent. This automation has a double benefit, freeing up staff time to focus on progressing applications and renewals through the relevant regulatory processes.

All major permit-management transactions are now available online. In addition, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines has delivered a new customer-focused view of permits, with the new 'applications status' tracking tool allowing users to maintain a real-time view of the status of the various components of their application. This delivers a level of transparency and certainty for customers in planning the progress of their projects.

The department has also delivered increased public visibility of mining and petroleum activity in Queensland, through the freely-available Local Area Mining Report. This free online service returns details of all tenures over a given parcel of land or local government area, which are emailed to a nominated address. Alternatively, users can access the new Mines Online Maps that allows the user to select appropriate layers of activity to view in a spatial environment.

The fact that there are now over 500 registered users of MyMines Online is testament to the success of the system. Its widespread adoption is a strong endorsement that industry has recognised the efficiencies that it delivers in terms of faster processing times.

## AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

### ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 7

asked on 25 June 2014

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ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES (MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister explain the benefits of the significant land tenure reform being undertaken by his department as mentioned in the SDS on page 5?

ANSWER:

From 1 July 2014, Queensland's rural and island tourism lessees will benefit from the significant reforms to the *Land Act 1994* and the Land Regulation 2009.

A key benefit of the reforms is improvement to tenure security for rural and island tourism leases. Tenure security is fundamental to a landholder's ability to plan and invest in the long term, and underpins the continued investment and growth of Queensland's economy.

The improvement to tenure security was delivered through the introduction of rolling-term leases for leasehold land used for agricultural, grazing or pastoral purposes, and for tourism purposes on declared offshore islands.

Leaseholders are able to apply for an extension in the last 20 years of their lease and, if approved, the leaseholder will have tenure security for the remainder of their lease term, plus an additional term equivalent to the original term of the lease.

Leases that became rolling-term leases now enjoy a quicker and easier process where the original term of the lease is renewed on a rolling basis—cutting out unnecessary paperwork and expense, such as land management agreements, or an assessment of the highest and best use.

From 1 July 2014, the rents for primary production leases, licences and permits to occupy changed to reduce the financial burden on the agricultural sector. The changes include:

- halving of rural rent rates for term leases, licences and permits to occupy, from 1.5 per cent to 0.75 per cent;
- using current unimproved value for rural leases, licences and permits to occupy, rather than a five-year averaged valuation, which kept rents higher in a falling property market;
- halving the annual cap on rent increases from 20 to 10 per cent for all primary production tenures;
- allowing for areas or a class of tenure (such as primary production leases) that have been severely impacted by hardship to be proclaimed for automatic deferral of rents; and

- any rents deferred due to hardship after 1 July 2014, no longer incurring a 2 per cent annual interest.

The Queensland Government is committed to increasing the level of freehold ownership of state land and, in the last financial year, reviewed the value of its interest in rural leasehold land. This has resulted in the government introducing a new methodology to calculate the purchase price when converting a rural leasehold land lease to freehold title. The new method replaces the unimproved value component with a net present value of the rent revenue.

The cost to convert the lease to freehold title will vary from year to year in line with trends in the economy; however, in the 2014–15 financial year, a landholder applying to convert their perpetual lease to freehold title will, for the land component of the purchase price, be required to pay about 13 times the prescribed annual rent payable, that is, as if there were no capping, rebates or deferral arrangements in place for the annual rent.

Red tape reduction equating to less paperwork and less costs to the government and leaseholders is achieved through the following reforms that commenced on 1 July 2014:

- pastoral term leases able to convert directly to freehold title, rather than first having to convert to a perpetual lease and then to freehold title;
- removal of legal restrictions that limited the number and type of perpetual leases for grazing or agricultural purposes, grazing homestead perpetual leases and grazing homestead freeholding leases that could be owned by individuals or corporations. This will open additional investment opportunities for farmers, and provides more flexibility to grow rural businesses under modern ownership arrangements;
- easier and quicker ways for leaseholders to amalgamate adjoining term and perpetual leases with the same purpose; and
- leaseholders no longer have to wait five years before they sell or transfer the lease created through subdivision—this can now occur immediately after the subdivided lease is created.

These significant land tenure reforms under the *Land Act 1994* and the *Land Regulation 2009* are only the start of a wider reform across the government's state land portfolio. On 10 June 2014, the government released a discussion paper titled *Queensland state land—Strengthening our economic future*, which marks the start of a major review of state land arrangements. The aim of the review is to ensure that state land is managed responsibly to promote greater opportunity for local and regional development, economic prosperity and thriving communities.

The discussion paper is structured around three themes—investment certainty for leaseholders; providing greater flexibility for local governments as managers of state land—specifically roads, stock routes and reserves; and a streamlined regulatory environment. This discussion paper is available on the Department of Natural Resources and Mines website.

This review is part of the Queensland Government's strong plan to grow a four pillar

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 8**

**asked on 25 June 2014**

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ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES  
(MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

Page 3 of the SDS refers to transforming the *Water Act 2000* to streamline and simplify provisions, and the reduction, of overly-prescriptive regulations. Minister what has been done in the Gulf and Baffle areas and the Surat zone of the Great Artesian Basin, and what additional water has been released to stimulate development in northern Australia?

ANSWER:

Since March 2012, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines has made 95,000 megalitres of unallocated water available in the Gulf water resource plan area, 11,600 megalitres of water available in the Baffle Creek water resource plan area, and 7200 megalitres of water available in the Surat zone of the Great Artesian Basin water resource plan area.

Through competitive tender processes, water licences have been granted for a total of 94,220 megalitres of water in the Gulf area; 33 megalitres of water in the Baffle Creek area; and 785 megalitres of water in the Surat areas.

North Queensland is a key focus area for new development opportunities—particularly in the relatively greenfield areas of Cape York and the catchments of the Gulf of Carpentaria.

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines has developed a draft strategy for delivering water resource management in Cape York. Once finalised, this strategy will support regional planning outcomes, and the aspirations of industry and the community in Cape York. The proposed longer-term framework involves a water resource planning process to support responsible and productive management, and use of water resources in Cape York.

In the Gulf of Carpentaria, the department has been quick to respond to the findings of the CSIRO's Flinders and Gilbert Agricultural Resource Assessment that showed potential for irrigated agricultural development in the Flinders and Gilbert rivers catchments, both in terms of water availability and soil suitability for a variety of crops.

Following the release of the CSIRO report, the review of the Gulf water resource plan focusing on identifying new unallocated water volumes in the Flinders and Gilbert rivers catchments was brought forward. This review aims to support agricultural

development in balance with the water needs of commercial and recreational fisheries, existing water users and the environment.

It is anticipated that the Gulf water resource plan review will be finalised by the end of 2014 and will provide for the release in early 2015 of any new unallocated water reserves.

In addition to identifying volumes of unallocated water to be made available across Queensland, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines is streamlining the regulatory processes for releasing unallocated water release to provide greater flexibility and more timely access to water.

<b>Division/s:</b>	<b>Policy and Program Support – Operations Support</b>		
	<b>Action Officer</b>	<b>Executive Director:</b>	<b>Deputy Director-General:</b>
<b>Name:</b>	Bernadette Hogan	Lloyd Taylor	Rachael Cronin
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<b>Date:</b>	2 July 2014	3 July 2014	3 July 2014

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 9**

**asked on 25 June 2014**

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ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES  
(MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

Looking at page 4 of the SDS, will the Minister provide feedback on how the governments open data strategy, and in particular the launching of the Mines Globe, have established Queensland as a world leader in the extractive resource industry?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is committed to the Open Data Strategy and the Department of Natural Resources and Mines continues to make data freely available through the open data portal.

The department manages a large number of significant data holdings on behalf of the state and treats its role as custodian seriously.

There are 102 datasets or 645 data resources available and accessible via the open data portal. The department remains on track to release all of its open data (a further 62 datasets) by June 2015.

An updated Open Data Strategy has recently been released. There is a major change in this update, listing all datasets—not just open data—and explaining why datasets are restricted. This is an important step in accountability and transparency.

The department also places its customers first by ensuring its data is not just available openly, but is available in ways that are also convenient and useful. This can be generalised as downloads, services and visualisations.

Visualisation of the government's spatial data is a key initiative of the department. The Queensland Globe was launched by the Premier in April 2013 and is the department's flagship example.

The Queensland Globe brings together over 250 government spatial data layers. Importantly, the layers are a collection of all spatial layers published to the open data portal by government departments.

Specific industry-themed examples of the Queensland Globe have been released, for example the Mines Globe.

The Mines Globe was released by the Premier on 19 November 2013 during Resources Week and includes 67 mining-related datasets.

The bringing together of broad-ranging mines data of current and historical activity across the state in one place has established Queensland as a world leader in the extractive resource industry.

For the first time, industry participants are able to navigate within the familiar Google Earth visualisation tool to relate the state's mines data with the most recent aerial photography available. Additional relevant information, such as property boundaries, road and rail infrastructure, and contours can be overlaid in the graphical environment, further enhancing the user's experience.

Feedback since release of the Mines Globe has been positive. Industry access has been steady with a total of 3.85 million map requests recorded since launch, averaging 17,274 requests per day, including weekends.

## AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

### ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 10

asked on 25 June 2014

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ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES (MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

Referencing page 2 of the SDS can the Minister provide further details of the initiatives to be delivered from the allocation of \$80 million over five years (including \$16 million in 2013-14) for natural resource management in Queensland, including those to protect the Great Barrier Reef?

ANSWER:

The \$80 million Queensland Regional Natural Resource Management Investment Program is being delivered primarily through regional natural resource management (NRM) bodies across Queensland. This funding enables the regional bodies to focus on 'on-ground' outcomes and to undertake their valuable work through strong partnerships with landholders, community and indigenous groups, rural industries, and local, state, and commonwealth governments. The regional NRM bodies are expected to work in partnership with industry, landholders and volunteer groups on projects that enhance agricultural productivity and responsible natural resource management. At least 20 per cent of this funding is to be implemented on projects in collaboration with volunteer Landcare groups and similar local grass root organisations.

Included in the program is a \$30 million (\$6 million per annum) commitment to protect the Great Barrier Reef by investing in monitoring, wetlands management and on-ground best practice natural resource management practices. The bulk of this work is included within the work programs of the regional NRM bodies, as well \$8.725 million allocated to Queensland Government agencies over five years.

Projects approved under the program to date include:

- \$1.8 million provided to regional NRM groups as core operating funding in the first year of the program;
- \$32.683 million approved for on-ground focused projects delivered by regional NRM groups; (as detailed in attachment 1);
- \$2.868 million approved for various state strategic projects to be delivered by a range of groups, such as Agforce and the State Council of River Trusts; and
- \$8.725 million to be delivered by the Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts; the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection; and the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, for projects contributing to the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan.
- \$7 million has been allocated to program administration and monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI).

The remaining \$26.9 million will be allocated to projects that will target the government's natural resource management priorities including:

- controlling pests and weeds;
- improving water quality, particularly in Great Barrier Reef catchments; and
- sustainable agriculture.

<b>QNRM Program Totals</b>	<b>\$</b>
Core operating to Regional NRM Bodies	1,800,000
Regional Body allocation for on-ground projects	32,683,000
State Strategic projects (SSP)	2,868,000
Reef Water Quality	8,725,000
Program administration and Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI)	7,000,000
Unallocated SSP	4,906,000
Unallocated Regional Funds	22,018,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>80,000,000</b>

## Attachment 1

Region	Total funding for 2013-2016	Key Projects
Burnett Mary	\$2,060,000	<p><b>Managing invasive species</b> – Fox predation on marine turtles; rubbervine, cat's claw creeper.</p> <p><b>Conserving soils</b> – gully and hill erosion mitigation.</p> <p><b>Improving water quality</b> – wetlands adjacent to the reef.</p>
Burdekin	\$2,467,000	<p><b>Improving landscape resilience in the important sugar production area of the Lower Burdekin Delta</b> - sustainable irrigation practice and best management practices.</p> <p><b>Building resilience in the Burdekin grazing industry</b> - on-ground trials of innovative practices that improve land condition, water quality and environmental assets.</p> <p><b>Burdekin P2R integrated modelling, monitoring and reporting program</b> - improve the quality of the water entering the Great Barrier Reef lagoon.</p> <p><b>Coordinated regional pest and weed management in the Burdekin Dry Tropics</b> - siam weed, prickly acacia and feral pigs.</p>
Condamine	\$2,350,000	<p><b>Productive and resilient agricultural landscapes in the Condamine Region</b> – increase soil health and fertility, reduce soil loss.</p> <p><b>Clean water for the Condamine</b> – reduce erosion, increase irrigation efficiency and pesticide and fertiliser management.</p> <p><b>Beating back the boxthorn</b> –control of African Boxthorn and other priority weeds.</p>
Cape York	\$2,515,000	<p><b>Strategic landscape scale control while building land management knowledge and skills</b> – wild dog and priority weed control.</p> <p><b>Maintaining Cape York's resource base for sustainable management and use</b> – property mapping and weed and pest control.</p> <p><b>Integrated vertebrate pest management program</b> – aerial and on-ground feral pig control.</p>
Desert Channels	\$2,115,000	<p><b>Protecting the water quality of the Thomson River Catchment</b> – address prickly acacia and rubber vine causing riparian damage.</p> <p><b>Northern Lake Eyre Basin Prickly Acacia Control Program – Stage 1</b> – on-ground and aerial weed control and mapping.</p>
Fitzroy Basin	\$1,975,000	<p><b>Sustainable Agriculture Through Innovative Practices</b> - soil health and agricultural productivity; reduce sediment, nutrient and pesticide discharges.</p> <p><b>Fitzroy Pest and Weed Management Project</b> - feral pigs, wild dogs, Prickly Acacia, Cat's Claw Creeper and Tilapia.</p> <p><b>Fitzroy Water Quality Project</b> - Paddock to Reef (P2R) program in key wetland, urban and coastal waterways.</p>
Northern Gulf	\$2,383,722	<p><b>Tropical Savannah grazing</b> - on-property grazing management practices, productivity and health of natural resources.</p> <p><b>Farming futures in FNQ</b> - reduce land degradation and improving soil health and resource use efficiency.</p>

Southern Gulf	\$2,346,277	<p><b>Resilient landscape and riparian zones: strategic rubber vine and bellyache bush management in the Northern and Southern Gulf</b> - preventing the establishment and spread of new incursions.</p> <p><b>Reclaiming landscapes: prickly acacia and other woody weed management in northwest Queensland</b> – prickly acacia, mesquite and parkinsonia.</p>
Mackay Whitsunday	\$2,124,998	<p><b>Strategic pest management: controlling and managing weeds and pests in the Mackay Whitsunday Region</b> – mimosa pigra, pond apple, rubber vine, giant rat tail grass, itch grass and feral pigs.</p> <p><b>Fast tracking adoption of innovative management practices in land-use industries in the Mackay Whitsunday region</b> - sustainable resource use and agricultural productivity.</p> <p><b>Improving reef water quality through practical on-ground decision support tools for agricultural land managers</b></p>
Queensland Murray Darling Basin	\$2,350,000	<p><b>Reducing impacts on sustainable landscapes through weeds and pests activities</b> – feral pigs and parthenium.</p> <p><b>Improved water quality</b> - Riverine restoration, erosion control and infrastructure repair.</p> <p><b>Maranoa-Balonne catchments – increasing productivity while reducing impacts on natural assets</b> - nutrient, soil and ground cover management.</p>
SEQ	\$3,400,000	<p><b>Improved resilience through strategic cats claw creeper control, sustainable agriculture initiatives and riparian management</b> – Logan, Lockyer and five coastal catchments.</p> <p><b>Riparian restoration projects in South East Queensland</b> - improve riparian condition and water quality in urban SEQ catchments.</p>
South West	\$3,825,000	<p><b>Enhancing primary production through sustainable total grazing pressure control and improved land management - Collaborative Area Management</b> - address uncontrolled grazing by macropods, feral goats and wild pigs and dogs.</p>
Torres Strait	\$451,000	<p><b>Controlling Emerging Pest Species in the Torres Strait through Integrated Pest Management</b> – cane toads, wild dogs, feral pigs and pest fish.</p>
Wet Tropics	\$2,320,000	<p><b>Partnerships for resilient and profitable farming in FNQ (Paddock to Reef)</b> - improve agricultural productivity and reduce the amount of sediment, nutrients and pesticides impacting on the Great Barrier Reef.</p> <p><b>Water quality: working on waterways – enabling Wet Tropics Traditional Owner stewardship</b> - protect stream banks, riparian areas and priority wetlands through pest management and stream bank rehabilitation works.</p> <p><b>Pests and weeds: FNQ weeds – local action on big issues</b> - Siam Weed, Brilliantasia lammium, Stevia ovate and Hiptage benghalensis, and other priority weeds.</p>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$32,683,000</b>	

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 1**

**asked on 25 June 2014**

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ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES  
(MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

I refer to page 5 of the Service Delivery Statement where it mentions the implementation of the coal seam gas engagement and compliance plan. Will the Minister advise how many full-time equivalents positions are in the coal seam gas compliance unit in 2013-14 and 2014-15 listed separately?

ANSWER:

The Coal Seam Gas Compliance Unit remains the central contact point for the community in relation to the coal seam gas industry in Queensland.

In 2013–14, the unit consisted of 22 full-time positions and is led by the Executive Director who works closely with the Gasfields Commission Queensland on key coal seam gas to liquefied natural gas-related issues.

The unit retains staff with expertise in areas such as groundwater, petroleum and gas safety, land access, and enforcement and compliance issues.

Positions within the unit are located in Roma, Toowoomba and Brisbane, and provide services throughout the Surat, Bowen and Galilee basins.

The Coal Seam Gas Compliance Unit will continue to have 22 full-time positions in 2014–15.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 2**

**asked on 25 June 2014**

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ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES  
(MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

I refer to page 5 of the SDS and the coal seam gas engagement and compliance plan. Will the Minister advise how many wells, drilling rigs, pipelines and petroleum facilities were inspected in 2013 as well as the total number of wells, drilling rigs, pipelines and petroleum facilities in 2013 to benchmark against the commitments in the plan?

ANSWER:

The report on the Coal Seam Gas Engagement and Compliance Plan 2013 was released in mid-June 2014.

This report provides a summary of the significant effort from units within the department that work closely in the coal seam gas to liquefied natural gas area.

The report highlights the department's proactive approach to inspecting, checking and auditing Queensland's coal seam gas industry operations; building relationships between landholders and resource companies; and keeping communities fully informed about coal seam gas activities in their region.

The key outcomes under the plan include:

- 346 of 1549 coal seam gas wells drilled were inspected for leaks and safety compliance—38 per cent more than the 250 target
- 209 coal seam gas drilling and work-over rigs were inspected or audited for compliance—44 per cent more than target. Approximately 190 rigs were operating in Queensland in 2013; however, some rigs are inspected on more than one occasion;
- 41 of 143 coal seam gas pipelines were audited/inspected—28.6 per cent of all pipelines;
- 14 of 57 petroleum facilities were inspected—24.5 per cent of all petroleum facilities.

## AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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

No. 3

asked on 25 June 2014

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ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES (MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 2 of the SDS and the Department of Natural Resources and Mines spending on Great Barrier Reef protection programs, will the Minister

- (a) Detail the amount of funding expended by his department in the 2012-13 and 2013-14 financial years under the Government's \$175 million contribution to the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2009
- (b) List all projects funded under the plan in the 2012-13 and 2013-14 financial years and the individual cost of each project
- (c) Provide the number of staff working on projects under the plan in each of the 2012-13 and 2013-14 financial years.
- (d) Detail the amount of funding expected to be expended by his department in 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 under the Government's \$175 million contribution to the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2013
- (e) List all projects expected to be funded under the plan and the projected individual cost of each project
- (f) Provide the number of staff projected to be working on projects under the plan in each of the 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18?

ANSWER:

- (a) For the 2012–13 and 2013–14 financial years, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines expended \$35.26 million on reef initiatives.
- (b) Projects delivered in the period 2012–13 and 2013–14 included:
  - \$4.04 million for the vegetation management program delivered by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
  - \$1.69 million for the state rural leasehold lands program delivered by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
  - \$6.20 million towards water resource program planning delivered by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
  - \$1.14 million for catchment and regional planning projects delivered by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
  - \$7.88 million for water monitoring program delivered by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
  - \$8.19 million under the Queensland Regional Natural Resource Management Investment Program for delivery of the Paddock to Reef project by five regional natural resource management groups—Burnett

Mary Regional Group, Fitzroy Basin Association, Reef Catchment, North Queensland Dry Tropics and Terrain.

- \$1 million contracted to the Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts for catchment loads monitoring.
  - \$1 million for catchment loads modelling delivered by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
  - \$0.7 million contracted to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection for the wetlands program.
  - \$0.1 million contracted to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry for wetlands in agriculture.
  - \$0.2 million to the Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts for wetlands mapping and assessment.
  - \$1.2 million for administration by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines of the Queensland Regional Natural Resource Management Investment Program.
  - \$0.2 million to the Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts for groundcover and riparian assessment.
  - \$0.71 million expended by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines for spatial and scientific information data management for reef maintenance.
  - \$0.61 million to the Fitzroy Basin Association and other external contractors for enhancing the Fitzroy monitoring program.
  - \$0.12 million to the Fitzroy Basin Association and other external contractors for the Fitzroy water partnership for river health.
  - \$0.29 million towards paddock scale monitoring and modelling managed by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
- (c) The Department of Natural Resources and Mines does not maintain statistics on the total number of staff, including those external to the department, who worked on Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2009 projects.
- (d) For 2014–15 and 2015–16 financial years (only), the Department of Natural Resources and Mines has contracted to expend a minimum of \$27.32 million towards reef initiatives.
- (e) Projects contracted to be delivered in 2014–15 and 2015–16 include:
- \$1.64 million for the vegetation management program for delivery by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
  - \$2.75 million towards water resource program planning for delivery by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
  - \$0.35 million for catchment and regional planning projects for delivery by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
  - \$9.6 million for water monitoring program for delivery by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
  - \$7.314 million under the Queensland Regional Natural Resource Management Investment Program for delivery of the Paddock to Reef project by five regional natural resource management groups—Burnett Mary Regional Group, Fitzroy Basin Association, Reef Catchment, North Queensland Dry Tropics and Terrain

- \$1.0 million to be contracted to the Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts for catchment loads monitoring.
  - \$1.0 million for catchment loads modelling to be delivered by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
  - \$0.4 million to be contracted to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection for the wetlands program.
  - \$0.2 million to be contracted to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry for wetlands in agriculture.
  - \$0.4 million to Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts for wetlands mapping and assessment.
  - \$1.2 million for administration by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines of the Queensland Regional Natural Resource Management Investment Program.
  - \$0.4 million to Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts for groundcover and riparian assessment.
  - \$0.25 million to be utilised by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines for spatial and scientific information data management for reef maintenance.
  - \$0.5 million for enhancing the Fitzroy monitoring program with the delivery mode to be determined, but potentially through an external contractor.
  - \$0.12 million for the Fitzroy water partnership for river health with the delivery mode to be determined, but potentially through an external contractor.
  - \$0.2 million for paddock scale monitoring and modelling to be managed by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
- (f) The Department of Natural Resources and Mines does not maintain statistics on the total number of staff, including those external to the department, being proposed to work on Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2013 projects.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 4**

**asked on 25 June 2014**

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ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES  
(MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

I refer to page 17 of the Service Delivery Statement where it details that total capital purchases in 2013-14 were \$4.6 million less than budgeted. Will the Minister advise what projects contributed to this underspend listed separately?

ANSWER:

The revised capital budget was driven by:

- Clawbacks of \$1.1 million required to deliver the 2012–13 capital program, which was completed earlier than expected for modules of the Streamlining Mining Tenure Approval Process project and the Mount Morgan water treatment plant.
- Change in funding arrangements of \$2.1 million for government land management systems, which was converted from capital to operating funds for the ongoing maintenance requirements.
- Deferrals of \$1.5 million due to delays in the delivery of Bajool Explosives Reserve road works and associated security upgrades, which are now to be delivered as part of the 2014–15 budget.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 5**

**asked on 25 June 2014**

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ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES  
(MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

I refer to page 31 of the Service Delivery Statement where it details at footnote 78 that cash bids paid through competitive tendering for exploration rights were revised down. Will the Minister advise what the total budget estimate was in 2013-14 for revenue from cash bids for exploration rights, as well as the estimated actual in 2013-14 including the number of cash bid payments and the expected revenue from cash bids through competitive tendering for exploration rights in 2014-15?

ANSWER:

The total budget estimate for competitive cash tendering for the 2013–14 financial year was \$100 million. The revenues forecast were based on the release of potentially highly prospective areas for both petroleum and gas, and coal.

Estimated actuals in 2013–14 were revised as competitive cash tenders have not included coal, and have been for petroleum and gas only. Additionally, decreases in coal prices since 2011 have been factored into the revised revenue estimates for the 2014–15 period.

It is important to recognise that proceeds from cash bidding will be inherently volatile. Revenue is influenced by the timing of the release of potentially highly prospective areas and the prevailing market conditions at the time of release. This means that proceeds could be lower in some years and higher in others.

Disclosing both the forecast revenue and actual revenue is not appropriate as it can adversely impact on competitive tension for future tenders as this can distort bid decisions.

It is important to note that, since the commencement of the revised competitive tendering framework, the predominant focus continues to be on work program-based tenders (without a cash bid component).

Accordingly, 12 areas totalling approximately 8000 sub-blocks have been released for non-cash coal, and petroleum and gas tender. In comparison, only 122 distinct sub-blocks (through seven areas) have been released for petroleum and gas exploration under competitive cash tendering.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 6**

**asked on 25 June 2014**

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ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES (MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

I refer to page 18 of the Service Delivery Statement which states that there is a decrease of \$20.2 million in total expenses in 2014-15 reflecting in part a “change in a federally and industry funded initiative for Carbon Geo-storage which was initially intended to be managed through the department”. Will the Minister advise why this funding is no longer being administered through the Department and how much the Queensland Government will lose from the Federal reduction in carbon capture and storage flagships funding of \$459.3 million from 2017-18 to 2019-20?

ANSWER:

The issue of the decrease in anticipated funding on page 18 of the Service Delivery Statement refers to funding to be provided by the former Commonwealth Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism (now the Department of Industry) towards the Carbon Geostorage Initiative in Queensland.

There have been ongoing negotiations between Australia Coal Association Low Emissions Technologies, the University of Queensland, the state and the Commonwealth Department of Industry, to agree on a preferred funding arrangement.

As the revised agreement and subsequent available funding by the Commonwealth Government are not yet finalised, it was deemed prudent to remove estimates until a final contribution amount is agreed upon.

The Carbon Capture and Storage Flagships Program commenced in 2009 and initially earmarked \$1.9 billion over nine years to support two to four commercial-scale projects in Australia; however, the Commonwealth Government recently decided to further reduce funding for the program by \$459.3 million in 2017–18 to 2019–20.

While a number of projects have been proposed for flagship program funding, only two projects—the CarbonNet Project in Victoria and the South West Hub Project in Western Australia—had been formally approved as at the end of 2013.

As there are currently no Queensland flagship projects, there is no funding being lost by the Queensland Government as a result of the Commonwealth Government’s decision to reduce funding for the flagship program.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 7**

**asked on 25 June 2014**

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ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES  
(MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

I refer to pages 14-15 of the Service Delivery Statement (SDS) where it mentions the new measure of 'percentage of scheduled audits and inspections completed within prescribed times' and a separate service standard now for High Potential Incident (HPI) investigations completed within prescribed times. At page 22 of the Discontinued Measures SDS it details that the previous combined measure for 2013-14 was not met at 85% under the target of 90%. Will the Minister advise what the SDS percentage was in 2013-14 for HPI investigations in prescribed timeframes, and also separately the other scheduled audits and inspections as per the new standards for 2014-15?

ANSWER:

The SDS percentage in 2013-14 for serious accident and high potential incident investigations completed within prescribed times was 100 per cent.

The percentage of audits and inspections in 2013-14 completed within prescribed times, as per the new standards for 2014-15, was 84 per cent.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 8**

**asked on 25 June 2014**

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ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES  
(MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

I refer to page 14 of the Service Delivery Statement where it states that there were fewer than 3.3 lost time injuries per million hours in the mining and quarrying industries in 2013-14. Will the Minister advise what the actual figure was?

ANSWER:

As at 30 June 2014, the actual figure is 3.0 lost time injuries per million hours in the mining and quarrying industries in 2013–14.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 9**

**asked on 25 June 2014**

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ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES (MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 11 of the SDS and the vegetation management framework, will the Minister detail all notifications, complaints and investigations of clearing breaches and finalisation of prosecutions over the 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 financial years by date of notification or commencement of investigation, location and size of area cleared, outcome of investigation and including whether prosecutions were pursued or are still ongoing?

ANSWER:

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines was established after the change of government in 2012. The responsibility for the administration of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* was moved from the former Department of Environment and Resource Management to the newly established department at that time.

**2011–12**

Eleven vegetation matters were prosecuted for a total of 1608½ hectares of native vegetation cleared and resulting in pecuniary fines of approximately \$520,000.

**2012–13**

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines received 791 reports relating to vegetation:

- 59 matters received attention;
- 5 property maps of assessable vegetation completed;
- 2 negotiated outcomes;
- 5 matters identified as having an applicable exemption (fodder clearing or forest management);
- 3 matters found not to be offences under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* and referred to another agency, such as the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection;
- 7 matters identified as 'No Offence Detected' (no evidence of an offence);
- 16 warning letters—matters determined to be of low priority and not considered serious enough to investigate further;
- 2 negotiated outcomes resulting in 1285 hectares preserved;
- 5 compliance-related property maps of assessable vegetation completed, resulting in 94½ hectares of remnant vegetation being preserved;

- 3 prosecution matters from previous reporting years discontinued upon legal counsel's advice or public interest. The matters had been referred to prosecution several years earlier; and
- one vegetation prosecution commenced.

#### **2013–14**

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines received 634 notifications:

- 75 matters received priority attention; however, 64 matters were found not to require compliance action (no evidence, legislation not applicable, exemptions).
- 11 matters progressed:
  - 2 prosecutions commenced; and
  - 9 negotiated outcomes with landholders.
- Actions included:
  - 2 property maps of assessable vegetation undergoing completion;
  - 1 formal warning;
  - 1 information notice (low level warning).
- 1 prosecution completed (from 2012–13 year with the offender convicted on two charges, fined \$30,000, and ordered to pay \$10,000 investigation costs and \$3770 legal costs).

In total, 736 hectares of remnant vegetation were determined to have been cleared outside of legislative scope. Through compliance negotiations, a total of 1310 hectares will be preserved. This includes 439 hectares voluntarily relinquished by landholders to be mapped for future remnant vegetation growth.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 10**

**asked on 25 June 2014**

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ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES  
(MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

I refer to page 12 of the SDS and the Minister's responsibility to manage mining leases. During last year's estimates the Minister provided detail on the \$4.9 million allocated to manage mining leases on North Stradbroke Island: Will the Minister provide a breakdown on spending under this program for each of the 2013-14 and 2014-15 financial years?

ANSWER:

A \$4.93 million budget was allocated to the Department of Natural Resources and Mines for a three year period, 2012 – 2015, to support the North Stradbroke Island (NSI) initiative. This budget includes the management and implementation of requirements under the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) and actions taken to extend sand mining on North Stradbroke Island.

\$2.287 million was spent in 2013/14 on implementing the 2011 Indigenous Land Use Agreement between the Quandamooka people and the state, work on negotiating a further ILUA, and the work required to enable the extension of sand mining.

\$580,000 was provided to the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation pursuant to the capacity development grant to assist the Quandamooka people to meet their obligations under the Indigenous Land Use Agreement.

The budget allocated to DNRM for 2014–15 is \$1.409 million. This includes a deferral from 2013/14 of \$0.397million. These funds will be allocated to implementing the ILUA between the State and the Quandamooka people and negotiating a further ILUA, which seeks to record native title consent to a number of land dealings currently under negotiation.

**Answers to Questions on Notice – Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

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

**No. 1**

**Asked on 25 June 2014**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)—

Can the Minister detail how his Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will deliver the services Queensland farmers need to lift profitability and production in 2014-2015, as encompassed in his Department's Service Delivery Statement for 2014-2015?

**ANSWER:**

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry contributes to the Government's objective of growing a four pillar economy by strengthening the economic growth and resilience of Queensland's' agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.

*Queensland's Agriculture Strategy* sets the vision for an efficient, innovative, resilient and profitable sector, underpinned by a target to double agricultural production by 2040 through four key pathways: resource availability, productivity, markets, and production costs.

The department's service areas are Agriculture, Biosecurity Queensland and Fisheries and Forestry.

The objective of the Agriculture service area is to lift the productivity of Queensland's agricultural businesses, with the aim of doubling production by 2040. The service area works with industry associations, research bodies and all levels of government to:

- secure the future of the agricultural industry through planning and capitalising on regional opportunities, and
- undertake research and deliver services that enable businesses to build capacity, improve productivity, manage risks and increase resilience.

The objective of the Biosecurity Queensland service area is to mitigate the risks and impacts of animal and plant pests, diseases and weeds to the economy, the environment, social amenity or human health by leading the Government's efforts in prevention of, response to, and recovery from biosecurity threats. Biosecurity Queensland also maintains market and consumer confidence by ensuring the welfare of animals and reducing the risk of agricultural chemical contamination.

The objective of the Fisheries and Forestry service area is to support sustainable, long term management of four of Queensland's natural resources to enable the economic growth of the fisheries and forestry industries. This is achieved by:

- ensuring fisheries and fish habitats are sustainably managed through science, regulation and education, creating the basis for profitable businesses and enjoyable recreational fishing experiences, and
- maximising financial returns to the State from the sale of forest products and quarry materials within environmental and community expectations.

The department's key policy and service delivery priorities for 2014-15 are:

- continuing to develop interactive tools that enable industry, planners and investors to take best advantage of the Queensland Land Audit and industry profiling
- realising agriculture's and fisheries' potential to expand the northern regional economy by:
  - contributing to establishment of a proposed Northern Australia co-operative research centre, in partnership with other jurisdictions, CSIRO and universities, and
  - investing in opportunities to maximise irrigated cropping and support growth of high value agriculture in the Flinders and Gilbert river catchments in North Queensland.
- providing \$15 million over five years (\$10 million of which is provided through a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's Reef Water Quality program) for the delivery of Best Management Practice programs and extension and technical services to improve uptake of management practices by producers and agricultural industries across reef catchments
- focusing further rounds of the buyback on fisheries symbols to reduce the pressures imposed by net fishing under the \$9 million voluntary buyback of commercial net fishing scheme
- continuing to rationalise and upgrade aged agri-science research facilities, other infrastructure and assets
- providing \$2.5 million over three years to enhance Queensland's foot and mouth disease (FMD) preparedness focusing on Biosecurity Queensland's surveillance, prevention and response systems
- investing a total of \$1.4 million (\$0.63 million in 2014-15) for a new forest and timber research and development program to drive innovation in the industry
- supporting Ministerial trade missions and working with Trade and Investment Queensland to pursue better access for Queensland producers and establish effective business relationships in key Asian markets
- streamlining accreditation processes and maintaining necessary certifications for agricultural produce, native forest timbers and fisheries to access interstate and international markets
- continuing to provide Drought Relief Assistance to drought affected producers and modernising the drought claims processing system to improve the timeliness of processing of claims
- strengthening the approach to research, control and management of pests and weeds in drought affected areas. The Australian Government contributed \$2.1 million in 2014-15 for control and management of farm pests in drought affected areas
- implementing initiatives in the department's regulatory reform plan including revised Biosecurity regulations and review of fisheries management, and
- making it simpler and easier for our customers to access the information and services from the government's One-Stop Shop
  - by being a contributor to Scenic Rim and Lockyer regional service trials
  - increasing online transactions.

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

**No. 1**

**Asked on 25 June 2014**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

With reference to page 3 of the SDS and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry spending on extension programs to promote best management practices in Great Barrier Reef catchments, will the Minister

- (a) Detail the amount of funding expended by his department in the 2012-13 and 2013-14 financial years under the Government's \$175 million contribution to the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2009.
- (b) List all projects funded under the plan in the 2012-13 and 2013-14 financial years, the individual cost of each project, its purpose and geographic location.
- (c) Provide the number of staff working on projects under the plan in each of the 2012-13 and 2013-14 financial years.
- (d) Detail the amount of funding expected to be expended by his department in 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 under the Government's \$175 million contribution to the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2013.
- (e) List all projects expected to be funded under the plan, the projected individual cost of each project, its purpose and geographic location.
- (f) Provide the number of staff projected to be working on projects under the plan in each of the 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 financial years?

**ANSWER:**

- (a) For the 2012-13 financial year, the amount of funding expended by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) under the Government's \$175 million contribution to Reef Plan was \$6.3 million. This includes additional funding from a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) and external funds from the Queensland Natural Resource Management (NRM) Investment Program.

For the 2013-14 financial year, the amount of funding expended by DAFF is expected to be \$6.6 million. This amount is still subject to the finalisation of the 2013-14 accounts and audit certification. The amount also includes additional funding from a MoU with DEHP, the Grazing Best Management Practice (BMP) program partnership with AgForce and Fitzroy Basin Association, and external funding from the Queensland NRM Investment Program.

- (b) A listing of the projects, individual costs, purpose and location for both the 2012-13 and 2013-14 financial years are provided in Attachments 1 and 2 respectively. The summary sheet provides key investment/project themes:
  - Research, Development and Innovation (Sugar Research Australia research funding for nutrients trials)

- Extension and Education (frontline extension and economic support to the cane, grazing, horticulture and grains industries)
  - Monitoring and Evaluation (reporting on management practice change for the Reef report Card), and
  - Reef Plan governance and operational co-ordination (extension support to BMP programs).
- (c) The total number of staff working under the plan in 2012-13 and 2013-14 was 43 and 47 Full Time Equivalentents (FTEs) respectively.
- (d) The amount of funding expected to be expended by DAFF for 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 years for known projects is approximately \$6.5 million per year. This includes additional funding from a MoU with DEHP and the grazing BMP partnership with AgForce.
- (e) The projects, costs, purpose and location of these projects are still being developed into work plans but will be aligned to Reef Plan priority industries and catchments as defined in Reef Plan 2013. Attachment 3 provides the budget for 2014-15 for the project themes.
- (f) The number of staff aligned to the DAFF Reef Plan projects for 2014-15 is approximately 48 FTEs which includes 30 FTEs providing extension, economics and technical support to BMP programs across all industries and reef catchments.

**ATTACHMENT 1 ~ 2012-13 PROJECTS AND EXPENDITURE**

2012-13 Projects	Description	Expenditure \$'000
<b>Research, Development and Innovation</b>		
	DAFF funding towards Sugar Research Australia research projects on better nutrient management, integrated weed management and precision agriculture for the sugar cane industry.	1,517
	Nutrient rate trials undertaken for BRIA and Burdekin Delta as part of the Sugarcane Soil Nutrient Management Program. Project funded by DEHP under its Reef Water Quality Science Program.	125
		<b>1,642</b>
<b>Extension and Education</b>		
	Frontline extension and economic support to the cane industry in the regulated catchments of the Wet Tropics (6FTEs), Burdekin (5.3FTEs) and Mackay/Whitsundays (1FTE) and the Burnett Mary (1FTE) cane growing district. These technical staff also provided technical advice for the development of the BMP modules, the research and development priorities and regulatory provisions regarding chemical and nutrient use. Economics staff researched and synthesised information on the cost benefits of adopting improved nutrient and chemical management practices. These staff were funded jointly by DAFF and DEHP.	1,128
	Frontline extension and economic support to the grazing industry in the regulated Burdekin Rangelands (8.15FTEs) as well as the Fitzroy catchment (1FTE) and the Atherton Tablelands (1FTE). The economists undertook economic assessments and provided a synthesis report on grazing operations in the Burdekin Dry Tropics to identify and communicate cost effective changes that graziers can make whilst reducing sediment run off leaving their properties. These staff were funded jointly by DAFF and DEHP.	1,298
	Frontline extension support to the Grains BMP program in the Fitzroy catchment (0.7FTE).	75
	Frontline extension support (3.25FTEs) to the horticulture industries across the Wet tropics, Dry Tropics and Burnett Mary regions.	332
	An extension officer was aligned to assist the Australian Banana Growers Council develop the Banana BMP program.	91
	Funding provided to the Nursery and Garden industry to foster the ethos of continuous improvement and improve resilience, business and environmental performance of North Queensland's nursery production sector.	90
	Funding provided to the Herbert Demonstration Farms as an innovative approach to agronomic extension and education that enabled commercial cane farming enterprises to demonstrate in a very practical way, the economic and reef water quality protection benefits of new generation farming systems. It also provided an opportunity to trial new and emerging technologies.	45
	Collaborative agreements with land care groups in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin, Mackay Whitsundays and Burnett Mary to demonstrate the management of wetlands within and adjacent to agricultural production areas. This initiative was funded under Queensland's NRM Investment Program.	158
		<b>3,217</b>
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>		
	Funding for staff (1.45FTEs) to measure the level of adoption of improved management practices for Reef Plan's Paddock to Reef Monitoring and Evaluation Program.	148
	Contract for independent monitoring and evaluation of DAFF's Reef Plan extension activities.	50
	Funding for grazing management practice adoption surveys funded by DEHP.	76
	Funding to integrate and enhance the existing seagrass monitoring component of Reef Plan's Marine Monitoring Program; part of the Paddock to Reef Monitoring and Evaluation Program. The funding allowed the monitoring of "pristine" reference sites in Cape York and study sites adjacent to rivers (Wet Tropics and Burdekin Dry Tropics) where on-land management practices have been initiated in catchments with little industrial/urban inputs. The project monitors sites in the Bowling Green Ramsar area where a well defined agricultural area is closely linked with an important, productive estuarine fisheries habitat and improved land management practices can be related to water quality outcomes.	235
		<b>509</b>
<b>DAFF Reef Plan support and operational co-ordination</b>		
	Research facility support to research and BMP operations for the grazing, cane and horticulture industries.	115
	Funding for 2.4 FTEs to help co-ordinate extension activities in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin and Mackay Whitsunday regions.	273
	DAFF funding towards management and administration of Reef Plan related projects.	525
		<b>913</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6,281</b>

**ATTACHMENT 2 ~ 2013-14 PROJECTS AND EXPENDITURE**

2013-14 Projects	Description	Expenditure \$'000
<b>Research, Development and Innovation</b>		
	DAFF funding towards Sugar Research Australia research projects on better nutrient management, integrated weed management, best management practices and precision agriculture for the sugar cane industry.	1,202
	Completion of nutrient rate trials undertaken for BRIA and Burdekin Delta as part of the Sugarcane Soil Nutrient Management Program. Project funded by DEHP under its Reef Water Quality Science Program.	12
		<b>1,214</b>
<b>Extension and Education</b>		
	Frontline extension and economic support to the cane industry in the regulated catchments of the Wet Tropics (6FTEs), Burdekin (5.3FTEs) and Mackay/Whitsundays (1FTE) and the Burnett Mary (1FTE) cane growing district. These technical staff also provided technical advice for the development of the BMP modules, the research and development priorities and regulatory provisions regarding chemical and nutrient use. Economics staff researched and synthesised information on the cost benefits of adopting improved nutrient and chemical management practices. These staff were funded jointly by DAFF and DEHP.	1,189
	Frontline extension and economic support to the grazing industry in the regulated Burdekin Rangelands (8.15FTEs) as well as the Fitzroy catchment (1FTE) and the Atherton Tablelands (1FTE). The economists undertook economic assessments and provided a synthesis report on grazing operations in the Burdekin Dry Tropics to identify and communicate cost effective changes that graziers can make whilst reducing sediment run off leaving their properties. These staff were funded jointly by DAFF and DEHP.	1,586
	Frontline extension support to the Grains BMP program in the Fitzroy catchment (0.7FTE).	77
	Frontline extension support (3.25FTEs) to the horticulture industries across the Wet tropics, Dry Tropics and Burnett Mary regions.	342
	An extension officer was aligned to assist the Australian Banana Growers Council develop the Banana BMP program.	94
	Funding provided to the Nursery and Garden industry to foster the ethos of continuous improvement and improve resilience, business and environmental performance of North Queensland's nursery production sector.	90
	Collaboration between Terrain and DAFF to co-fund a position to help establish the frameworks to enhance the co-ordination and reporting of extension and training services to agricultural industries in the Wet Tropics for Reef Plan outcomes.	50
	Funding to Dalrymple Landcare to establish a demonstration of the economic benefits of restoring land condition on basalt land types within the Upper Burdekin Catchment.	50
	The implementation of DEHP Grazing BMP Project in the Fitzroy and Burdekin Regions is a Fitzroy Basin Association Collaborative Agreement with DAFF, utilising funding from the State Government Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. The project is supported by 3.5 FTE base contribution and 2.5 externally funded FTE.	564
	Wetlands in Agriculture Training Extension and Resources is a 5 year project funded under the Qld NRM Investment Program to increase the knowledge and capacity of producers and practitioners in managing agricultural land to improve the ecological function and values of wetlands. The project has activities in the Mackay Whitsundays, Burdekin and Wet Tropics regions. This project is a deliverable under Action 6 of Reef Plan (0.5FTE).	100
		<b>4,142</b>
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>		
	Funding for staff (1.45FTEs) to measure the level of adoption of improved management practices for Reef Plan's Paddock to Reef Monitoring and Evaluation Program.	148
	Contract for independent monitoring and evaluation of DAFF's Reef Plan extension activities.	50
	Funding for grazing management practice adoption surveys funded by DEHP.	75
	Real Time Water Quality Monitoring project to install an additional real-time WQ monitoring site to supplement the existing monitoring site at Barratta Creek in the Burdekin. The monitoring device will be portable to enable its movement into other areas such as wetlands downstream from the monitoring site or wherever WQ analysis is required. The project will provide cane growers with real time data showing changes to water quality as a result of their practices.	50
	Funding to complete the project to integrate and enhance the existing seagrass monitoring component of Reef Plan's Marine Monitoring Program; part of the Paddock to Reef Monitoring and Evaluation Program. The funding allowed the monitoring of "pristine" reference sites in Cape York and study sites adjacent to rivers (Wet Tropics and Burdekin Dry Tropics) where on-land management practices have been initiated in catchments with little industrial/urban inputs. The project monitors sites in the Bowling Green Ramsar area where a well defined agricultural area is closely linked with an important, productive estuarine fisheries habitat and improved land management practices can be related to water quality outcomes.	15
		<b>338</b>
<b>DAFF Reef Plan support and operational co-ordination</b>		
	Research facility support to research and BMP operations for the grazing, cane and horticulture industries.	115
	Funding for 2.4 FTEs to help co-ordinate extension activities in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin and Mackay Whitsunday regions.	278
	DAFF funding towards management and administration of Reef Plan related projects.	525
		<b>918</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6,612</b>

**ATTACHMENT 3 ~ 2014-15 PROJECTS AND BUDGETED EXPENDITURE**

2014-15	Description	Planned Expenditure \$'000
<b>Research, Development and Innovation</b>		
	DAFF funding to Sugar Research Australia research projects for Reef Plan outcomes	1,234
		<b>1,234</b>
<b>Extension and Education</b>		
	MOU with EHP for extension support to BMP programs	2,000
	Grazing BMP project	560
	DAFF base extension support	858
	Wetlands in Agriculture Training and Extension Program	100
	Extension Coordination	292
	Economic support	675
		<b>4,485</b>
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>		
	Paddock to Reef Program	219
		<b>219</b>
<b>DAFF Reef Plan support and operational co-ordination</b>		
	Project oversight and support	497
	Research facility operation	121
		<b>618</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6,556</b>

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

**No. 2**

**Asked on 25 June 2014**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)—

Can the Minister outline his plan for building and developing Education, Skills and Training for Agriculture in Queensland as included in his Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Service Delivery Statement for 2014-2015?

**ANSWER:**

I am currently working with key stakeholders from the agriculture industries and across education sectors to develop a Blueprint for Agriculture Education in Queensland.

This Blueprint will provide stakeholders with the opportunity to provide collective advice on the future direction of agriculture education in Queensland.

The need for an Agriculture Education Blueprint recognises the complexity, multiple deliverers and considerable crossover that occurs in the provision of education services at all levels that support education systems and workforce development needs for the agricultural sector.

This Blueprint will help inform the Queensland Government where funding and resources could be used to support key education initiatives as identified by industry, and help identify where my department can play a role in supporting these industries in the development of their workforce.

The Blueprint will target distinct education sectors including schools, Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Higher Education. It will also identify opportunities for targeted informal training, and promote lifelong learning.

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

**No. 3**

**Asked on 25 June 2014**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

**QUESTION:**

Can the Minister provide details on the funding allocation to support Queensland farmers over the coming 12 months, should the current drought continue - as included in his Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Service Delivery Statement for 2014-2015?

**ANSWER:**

Following a disappointing summer rainfall season in 2013-14, approximately 74.52 per cent of Queensland's land area remains drought declared. The drought is affecting 36 full shires and three part shires. Outside of those areas we have 39 Individually Droughted Property declarations.

On a positive note, the Carpentaria, Burke and Doomadgee shires received sufficient falls of rain during the wet season for the Local Drought Committee to recommend to me that the drought declarations in these shires be revoked.

I am aware that the Bureau of Meteorology's Monthly Climate Statement for June 2014 is suggesting that the probability of an El Niño event, which usually brings dry conditions, is high. I acknowledge the climate outlook is not good at this point in time, and I wish to make it clear that the Queensland Government will continue its existing drought support arrangements for the duration of the current drought.

With regard to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's Service Delivery Statement for 2014-2015, the Queensland Government has allocated \$15.75 million in new money towards the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (DRAS) and, when combined with the departmental allocation of \$3 million to DRAS, the full amount of \$18.75 million has been made available.

I am able to inform the Committee that DRAS expenditure in 2013-14 has exceeded \$23 million.

I am optimistic that the funding allocated to DRAS for 2014-15 will be sufficient and there will be a significant easing of drought conditions soon. However, I reiterate that the Queensland Government will continue to assist producers while the current drought lasts.

I will continue to monitor drought conditions and consider appropriate responses to the seasonal conditions leading up to and following the 2014-15 summer rainfall event.

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

**No. 4**

**Asked on 25 June 2014**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

Can the Minister highlight his Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's funding allocation for Research, Development and Extension programs over the coming 12 months – as included in his Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Service Delivery Statement for 2014-2015?

**ANSWER:**

As innovation lies at the heart of productivity, support for agricultural Research, Development and Extension remains strong, with the Queensland Government allocating \$55 million in funding in 2014-15. This will be boosted by a further \$29 million in external funding from Research Development Corporations and other vital sources.

Some of the important initiatives are:

- \$6.98 million will go to the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation; an essential partnership delivering world-leading research in the plant, animal, nutrition and food sciences.
- \$4.05 million will go to Sugar Research Australia to improve productivity and minimise environmental impact in the sugarcane industry. \$1.2 million of this is from the government's election commitment to the sugar industry.
- \$1.4 million will go to the Queensland University of Technology for research to help Queensland become Australia's leading producer and exporter of tropical pulses to Asia and India.
- \$1.4 million (\$0.63 million in 2014-15) for a new forest and timber research and development program to drive innovation in the industry.
- \$1.3 million will be used to support farm robotics research through the Queensland University of Technology.

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

**No. 5**

**Asked on 25 June 2014**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)—

Can the Minister outline how his decision to fully review fisheries management in 2014-2015 (as per SDS) in Queensland will deliver on the Government's commitment to cut red tape and streamline the 900-odd pages of overly complicated legislation that was left by the previous State Government to oversee the operations of just 1500 commercial fishers?

**ANSWER:**

The Queensland Government is undertaking a wide-ranging review of fisheries management in Queensland to deliver a better system for the state's commercial, recreational and traditional fishers while ensuring that the community owned resource is used appropriately.

The aim of the review is to modernise and simplify fisheries management systems and cut red tape and maintain and improve environmental sustainability. This will provide the flexibility for industry to prosper, ensure recreational and traditional fishers have reasonable access to the resource and ensure our lifestyle is maintained. The review will examine the entire approach to managing our fisheries.

The current system is complex, costly to administer and inconsistent. The existing legislation is impacted by a number of legacy decisions, culminating in over 900 pages of regulation to manage fisheries and fish habitats. These arrangements have grown organically over time, often as a result of ad hoc requests from stakeholders to either protect the resource from real or perceived risks, or to restrict competition within the commercial sector.

Overall, we need to simplify and modernise the management of Queensland's fisheries to introduce effective management so that we can reduce the regulatory burden on all fishers, improve the resilience of our fish stocks and ensure ecological sustainability.

It is too soon to say how these things will be achieved. However, the options and preferred direction need to be identified and then discussed with stakeholders before any final decisions are taken.

As a first step, an independent consultant has been appointed to provide advice to the Government about how to proceed. MRAG Asia Pacific has extensive national and international experience with fisheries and marine resource management. They will provide a final report and recommendations to the Government in December 2014.

Commercial, recreational, tourism, conservation and indigenous groups will all be asked by the consultants to provide input in this initial stage. Additional advice will also be provided for their consideration by the Fisheries Ministerial Advisory Committee I have recently appointed.

The review team will use their extensive knowledge and experience to help examine what types of fisheries management approaches could apply to the unique circumstances surrounding Queensland fisheries. Once the Government has received the recommendations, decisions will be taken on how best to proceed. Development of new legislation will then commence and it is likely to take a number of years. However, some of the likely reforms could be advanced ahead of major changes to legislation.

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

**No. 6**

**Asked on 25 June 2014**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

Can the Minister outline the Government's commitment to seafood industry research as outlined in his Department of Agriculture of Fisheries and Forestry's Service Delivery Statement for 2014-2015?

**ANSWER:**

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) has an ongoing commitment to underpinning growth of Queensland's seafood industry. We invest in research to plan and capitalise on regional opportunities and to grow resilient industries and business with improved capacity, productivity and risk management.

Our investment in seafood research supports our goal to double industry productivity by 2040. DAFF ensures our seafood producers remain economically viable and have new domestic and export markets opening up. Importantly, we also reach out to every Queenslanders by supporting the year round availability of affordable food, underpinning improvements in food quality and safety and providing consumer satisfaction that food is produced in an ethical and environmentally sound manner. Thus we deliver our services to customers across the sectoral value chains – from “pond to plate” and “sea to service”.

An example of how DAFF achieves these outcomes comes from the developing Cobia industry. Cobia is a large salt water fish which can be wild caught off the Queensland coast. Recently, it has become obvious that this species is also a prime candidate for farmed production. Ensuring supply of the fish is critical to establishing the industry. At the same time, creating demand to drive sales and pricing is just as critical to success.

DAFF's post-harvest seafood team at the Coopers Plains Food Science Facility is carrying out research into eating-quality characteristics, optimised retail packaging and product options. At the same time the aquaculture team at Bribie Island are researching key questions to understand best practice production and breeding methods. This portfolio of work is underpinning the industry's goal to meet their targeted 15,000 tonne production level; equating to \$150 million revenue at the farm gate. I have it from first-hand accounts that both smoked and fresh-cooked Cobia fillets are outstanding and urge the honourable members to try some at the first available opportunity.

DAFF's research partnership with Queensland's prawn industry is a second example of our research and development (R&D) investment at work. For instance, there is an ongoing roll-out by the industry of innovative new treatments to extend the shelf life and maintain the eating quality of farmed prawns. The impact of this work is estimated to add between \$15 and \$25 million to this

\$73 million industry. The treatments were once again developed by the post-harvest seafood team, who will be providing the industry with ongoing technical support and new scientific research throughout 2014-15.

On the production side of our R&D investments with the prawn farming industry, DAFF researchers are developing innovative water cleansing technologies which will help prawn farmers to minimise the impact of their activities on the environment, thereby assisting them to meet regulatory requirements while conducting their everyday business. As an aside, the technology creates a new opportunity to farm sand worms for the bait industry – thus, creating new income streams for the producers, reducing overharvesting of the supply of wild catch sandworms and satisfying the needs of the recreational anglers.

There are several other examples I could mention through which we are assisting Queensland's diverse seafood industries to grow and to meet consumer demands. Mud crab, barramundi and tropical wild catch fisheries are among the iconic species with which our researchers work to achieve industry growth through the four pathways of managing resource availability, driving productivity, securing and increasing market access and minimising production costs.

In each case throughout 2014-15, DAFF researchers will work closely with industry and the businesses therein to ensure that the new practices and technologies are implemented as the direct result of our funded innovation and capacity development activities. Follow up engagement with industry, business and funding partners will ensure that we understand and capture the improvements in sector performance arising from our co-investments in research and development.

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

**No. 7**

**Asked on 25 June 2014**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

Can the Minister outline ongoing funding commitment for the Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) eradication program in south-east Queensland as included in his Department of Agriculture of Fisheries and Forestry Service Delivery Statement for 2014-2015?

**ANSWER:**

The Queensland Government remains committed to the eradication of fire ants. The eradication program in south-east Queensland is being delivered by the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program (the Program), within the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, on behalf of the Australian Government and all state and territory governments.

In March 2013, the Program's national cost-share partners considered the future of the Program and noted a five-year response plan for the period 2013 to 2018. The plan comprises a two-year delimitation, containment and suppression phase concluding in June 2015, followed by a return to eradication in 2015-16.

The indicative budget to implement the response plan in 2014–15 is \$18,005,000. \$15,005,000 is to be provided through national cost-shared funding, with Queensland's share being \$1.41 million or 9.4 percent. The Queensland Government has agreed to provide an additional \$3 million in 2014-15 over and above its national cost-sharing obligation, as it did in 2013-14, in recognition of the importance of eradicating this serious invasive pest.

Australian agriculture ministers were unable to reach consensus on funding for the Program in 2014–15 at the Agriculture Ministers' (AgMIN) Forum on 2 May 2014 and agreed to resolve the issue out of session. At the meeting, the Australian Government and all state and territory governments other than Western Australia indicated their ongoing support for the Program and their preparedness to fund the Program in 2014–15.

Western Australia has subsequently advised the Commonwealth that it will only agree to provide 50 percent of its national cost-share proportion in 2014–15 to fund an orderly wind-up of the Program.

An out-of-session AgMIN Agenda Paper is expected to be circulated in the near future seeking the agreement of all jurisdictions to funding the Program in 2014-15 in accordance with indicative budget and cost-sharing apportionments detailed in the nationally agreed response plan.

Given the significant amount that has been invested in the Program to date (approximately \$292 million in total and \$41.6 million from the Queensland Government to 30 June 2014), and the massive negative impacts fire ants would have on Australia's economy, environment, public health and social amenity, the Queensland Government remains committed to funding the nationally agreed response plan.

The government is continuing to work with the other jurisdictions to secure national agreement on funding for the Program in 2014-15 and their ongoing commitment to funding the eradication of fire ants from Australia.

The Queensland Government is currently underwriting the cost of delivering the Program until the national cost-share funding issue is resolved.

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

**No. 8**

**Asked on 25 June 2014**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

Can the Minister outline the State Government's commitment to assisting farmers and landholders in the control of highly-invasive woody weeds in western Queensland – through the 'War on Western Weeds' project as included in his Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Service Delivery Statement for 2014-2015?

**ANSWER:**

Prickly acacia is a highly invasive woody weed that currently infests more than six million hectares of grazing land in Queensland and has the potential to spread over 20 to 30 million hectares.

The War on Western Weeds project is a five year, \$1.88 million initiative that aims to improve the management of prickly acacia and bellyache bush through a more vigorous bio-control research program, the development of new herbicide control techniques and the facilitation and promotion of community-led best practice management that can be incorporated into other on-ground projects.

During 2013-14, the project has focused on engaging with the many states and gaining stakeholder support and awareness which has included field days and the establishment of the War on Western Weeds Project Advisory Group. The focus of the research component has been on the implementation of spray misting trials and the importation and commencement of the biological control studies.

During the 2014-15 financial year, the research component of the project will undertake host-testing of at least two prickly acacia insects, collecting potential bellyache bush agents and undertaking at least two prickly acacia ecology and spread prevention studies. The project will also deliver two adaptive management field days or forums to promote best-practice, assist with the development of decision-based support tools such as a 'Prickly Acacia Grazing Land Management Module', and support the implementation a 'Good Neighbour Program' case-study in the Flinders and or Winton Shires.

Problems such as prickly acacia will not be solved quickly and require an ongoing commitment by a range of organisations and people. This model being implemented in the War on Western Weeds to collaboratively address serious weed or pest animal problems is one this government will continue to support and promote.

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

**No. 9**

**Asked on 25 June 2014**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

Can the Minister outline what his Government is doing to support Queensland farmers and landholders to combat wild dogs against their predation on the livestock industries - as included in his Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Service Delivery Statement for 2014-2015?

**ANSWER:**

The Queensland Government has taken significant actions to assist landholders and local governments combat wild dogs.

Some of my initial actions included the provision of frontline wild dog officers and the reinvigoration of my Ministerial Advisory Committee, QDOG, to provide me with advice on wild dog issues.

I have also cut the red tape around the provision of meat for baiting by allowing landholders to use cull animals or the meat of kangaroos harvested for skins. To further aid landholders bait wild dogs, I have asked the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to work with Queensland Health to develop an improved system for the use of 1080 that will provide landholders with greater flexibility and improved access to 1080 baits.

In previous financial years, the Government has directly assisted local governments with wild dog management through the provision of \$500,000 in direct funding to a series of local governments for wild dog projects and \$175,000 to AgForce to further their wild dog management work.

The Government, through the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, has also allocated up to \$3.8 million to South West Natural Resource Management Ltd to support the development of cluster fences in their area.

AgForce and QDOG have provided confirmation that the actions that the Queensland Government has taken are effective and in line with industry requirements.

However, it must be remembered that the responsibility for declared pest animal control rests with the landholder and despite government funding and community action, effective feral animal control will never be achieved unless all landholders fulfil their responsibility.

I have recently directed the Department to work with at least three local governments to trial compliance against landholders who do not carry out wild dog control and I look forward to sharing the result of this project later this year.

To explore funding options for the control of wild dogs and discuss issues including the Federal Government drought funding for feral animal control, compliance and fencing, I recently convened a meeting in Longreach. The meeting was productive and I have committed to a quarterly wild dog forum to be held in different parts of the State.

The management of wild dogs in Queensland is, and will be, an ongoing problem. The Government is committed to continuing this fight using a range of tools or support mechanisms and we will continue to work with landholders to develop sustainable approaches to controlling wild dogs in this State.

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

**No. 10**

**Asked on 25 June 2014**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

Can the Minister outline how his Government is supporting Queensland's horticultural industries to boost yields, lower harvest costs and improve profitability - as included in his Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Service Delivery Statement for 2014-2015?

**ANSWER:**

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is leading or participating in scores of projects that support the horticulture industries in boosting yields, reducing harvest costs and improving profitability.

Improved yields are mainly being pursued in DAFF's range of horticulture breeding projects, which regularly release new, higher-yielding lines that often also have other benefits over older varieties. As well as active crossing and selection programs for mango, citrus, pineapple, apple, custard apple, strawberry, macadamia, sweetcorn, tomato and capsicum, DAFF scientists are also involved in evaluation of overseas-developed lines of banana.

In addition to breeding-in more productive genes, DAFF develops new or improved horticultural production systems that maximise yields. Many of these systems provide better performance against pests and diseases than conventional farming practice, minimising crop losses to maximise yield and grower profitability.

The Small Tree High Productivity Initiative (STHPI) is a good example of bold, transformative research that aims to do for tropical tree crops avocado, macadamia and mango what has recently been achieved for the 'old-world' temperate crop apple. With improved genetics and modern, high density trellis-based production systems, yields of apple have improved by more than 300 per cent. The STHPI which was commenced in 2013 will similarly unlock production potential of these iconic Queensland tree crops and underpin significant increases in export volumes.

DAFF researchers work with the horticulture industries to identify research priorities and future capability needs, and to develop projects that best address those priorities. Projects are typically 50:50 co-funded between DAFF and industry, usually accessing grower levies which are matched federally and administered through Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL). DAFF is HAL's biggest research service provider and HAL is DAFF's biggest horticulture research co-funder. DAFF works hand in glove with industry to improve industry profitability and to grow the contribution of the horticulture industries to the Queensland economy.

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

**No. 1**

**Asked on 25 June 2014**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

With reference to page 3 of the SDS and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry spending on extension programs to promote best management practices in Great Barrier Reef catchments, will the Minister

- (a) Detail the amount of funding expended by his department in the 2012-13 and 2013-14 financial years under the Government's \$175 million contribution to the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2009.
- (b) List all projects funded under the plan in the 2012-13 and 2013-14 financial years, the individual cost of each project, its purpose and geographic location.
- (c) Provide the number of staff working on projects under the plan in each of the 2012-13 and 2013-14 financial years.
- (d) Detail the amount of funding expected to be expended by his department in 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 under the Government's \$175 million contribution to the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2013.
- (e) List all projects expected to be funded under the plan, the projected individual cost of each project, its purpose and geographic location.
- (f) Provide the number of staff projected to be working on projects under the plan in each of the 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 financial years?

**ANSWER:**

- (a) For the 2012-13 financial year, the amount of funding expended by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) under the Government's \$175 million contribution to Reef Plan was \$6.3 million. This includes additional funding from a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) and external funds from the Queensland Natural Resource Management (NRM) Investment Program.

For the 2013-14 financial year, the amount of funding expended by DAFF is expected to be \$6.6 million. This amount is still subject to the finalisation of the 2013-14 accounts and audit certification. The amount also includes additional funding from a MoU with DEHP, the Grazing Best Management Practice (BMP) program partnership with AgForce and Fitzroy Basin Association, and external funding from the Queensland NRM Investment Program.

- (b) A listing of the projects, individual costs, purpose and location for both the 2012-13 and 2013-14 financial years are provided in Attachments 1 and 2 respectively. The summary sheet provides key investment/project themes:
  - Research, Development and Innovation (Sugar Research Australia research funding for nutrients trials)

- Extension and Education (frontline extension and economic support to the cane, grazing, horticulture and grains industries)
  - Monitoring and Evaluation (reporting on management practice change for the Reef report Card), and
  - Reef Plan governance and operational co-ordination (extension support to BMP programs).
- (c) The total number of staff working under the plan in 2012-13 and 2013-14 was 43 and 47 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) respectively.
- (d) The amount of funding expected to be expended by DAFF for 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 years for known projects is approximately \$6.5 million per year. This includes additional funding from a MoU with DEHP and the grazing BMP partnership with AgForce.
- (e) The projects, costs, purpose and location of these projects are still being developed into work plans but will be aligned to Reef Plan priority industries and catchments as defined in Reef Plan 2013. Attachment 3 provides the budget for 2014-15 for the project themes.
- (f) The number of staff aligned to the DAFF Reef Plan projects for 2014-15 is approximately 48 FTEs which includes 30 FTEs providing extension, economics and technical support to BMP programs across all industries and reef catchments.

**ATTACHMENT 1 ~ 2012-13 PROJECTS AND EXPENDITURE**

2012-13 Projects	Description	Expenditure \$'000
<b>Research, Development and Innovation</b>		
	DAFF funding towards Sugar Research Australia research projects on better nutrient management, integrated weed management and precision agriculture for the sugar cane industry.	1,517
	Nutrient rate trials undertaken for BRIA and Burdekin Delta as part of the Sugarcane Soil Nutrient Management Program. Project funded by DEHP under its Reef Water Quality Science Program.	125
		<b>1,642</b>
<b>Extension and Education</b>		
	Frontline extension and economic support to the cane industry in the regulated catchments of the Wet Tropics (6FTEs), Burdekin (5.3FTEs) and Mackay/Whitsundays (1FTE) and the Burnett Mary (1FTE) cane growing district. These technical staff also provided technical advice for the development of the BMP modules, the research and development priorities and regulatory provisions regarding chemical and nutrient use. Economics staff researched and synthesised information on the cost benefits of adopting improved nutrient and chemical management practices. These staff were funded jointly by DAFF and DEHP.	1,128
	Frontline extension and economic support to the grazing industry in the regulated Burdekin Rangelands (8.15FTEs) as well as the Fitzroy catchment (1FTE) and the Atherton Tablelands (1FTE). The economists undertook economic assessments and provided a synthesis report on grazing operations in the Burdekin Dry Tropics to identify and communicate cost effective changes that graziers can make whilst reducing sediment run off leaving their properties. These staff were funded jointly by DAFF and DEHP.	1,298
	Frontline extension support to the Grains BMP program in the Fitzroy catchment (0.7FTE).	75
	Frontline extension support (3.25FTEs) to the horticulture industries across the Wet tropics, Dry Tropics and Burnett Mary regions.	332
	An extension officer was aligned to assist the Australian Banana Growers Council develop the Banana BMP program.	91
	Funding provided to the Nursery and Garden industry to foster the ethos of continuous improvement and improve resilience, business and environmental performance of North Queensland's nursery production sector.	90
	Funding provided to the Herbert Demonstration Farms as an innovative approach to agronomic extension and education that enabled commercial cane farming enterprises to demonstrate in a very practical way, the economic and reef water quality protection benefits of new generation farming systems. It also provided an opportunity to trial new and emerging technologies.	45
	Collaborative agreements with land care groups in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin, Mackay Whitsundays and Burnett Mary to demonstrate the management of wetlands within and adjacent to agricultural production areas. This initiative was funded under Queensland's NRM Investment Program.	158
		<b>3,217</b>
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>		
	Funding for staff (1.45FTEs) to measure the level of adoption of improved management practices for Reef Plan's Paddock to Reef Monitoring and Evaluation Program.	148
	Contract for independent monitoring and evaluation of DAFF's Reef Plan extension activities.	50
	Funding for grazing management practice adoption surveys funded by DEHP.	76
	Funding to integrate and enhance the existing seagrass monitoring component of Reef Plan's Marine Monitoring Program; part of the Paddock to Reef Monitoring and Evaluation Program. The funding allowed the monitoring of "pristine" reference sites in Cape York and study sites adjacent to rivers (Wet Tropics and Burdekin Dry Tropics) where on-land management practices have been initiated in catchments with little industrial/urban inputs. The project monitors sites in the Bowling Green Ramsar area where a well defined agricultural area is closely linked with an important, productive estuarine fisheries habitat and improved land management practices can be related to water quality outcomes.	235
		<b>509</b>
<b>DAFF Reef Plan support and operational co-ordination</b>		
	Research facility support to research and BMP operations for the grazing, cane and horticulture industries.	115
	Funding for 2.4 FTEs to help co-ordinate extension activities in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin and Mackay Whitsunday regions.	273
	DAFF funding towards management and administration of Reef Plan related projects.	525
		<b>913</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6,281</b>

**ATTACHMENT 2 ~ 2013-14 PROJECTS AND EXPENDITURE**

2013-14 Projects	Description	Expenditure \$'000
<b>Research, Development and Innovation</b>		
	DAFF funding towards Sugar Research Australia research projects on better nutrient management, integrated weed management, best management practices and precision agriculture for the sugar cane industry.	1,202
	Completion of nutrient rate trials undertaken for BRIA and Burdekin Delta as part of the Sugarcane Soil Nutrient Management Program. Project funded by DEHP under its Reef Water Quality Science Program.	12
		<b>1,214</b>
<b>Extension and Education</b>		
	Frontline extension and economic support to the cane industry in the regulated catchments of the Wet Tropics (6FTEs), Burdekin (5.3FTEs) and Mackay/Whitsundays (1FTE) and the Burnett Mary (1FTE) cane growing district. These technical staff also provided technical advice for the development of the BMP modules, the research and development priorities and regulatory provisions regarding chemical and nutrient use. Economics staff researched and synthesised information on the cost benefits of adopting improved nutrient and chemical management practices. These staff were funded jointly by DAFF and DEHP.	1,189
	Frontline extension and economic support to the grazing industry in the regulated Burdekin Rangelands (8.15FTEs) as well as the Fitzroy catchment (1FTE) and the Atherton Tablelands (1FTE). The economists undertook economic assessments and provided a synthesis report on grazing operations in the Burdekin Dry Tropics to identify and communicate cost effective changes that graziers can make whilst reducing sediment run off leaving their properties. These staff were funded jointly by DAFF and DEHP.	1,586
	Frontline extension support to the Grains BMP program in the Fitzroy catchment (0.7FTE).	77
	Frontline extension support (3.25FTEs) to the horticulture industries across the Wet tropics, Dry Tropics and Burnett Mary regions.	342
	An extension officer was aligned to assist the Australian Banana Growers Council develop the Banana BMP program.	94
	Funding provided to the Nursery and Garden industry to foster the ethos of continuous improvement and improve resilience, business and environmental performance of North Queensland's nursery production sector.	90
	Collaboration between Terrain and DAFF to co-fund a position to help establish the frameworks to enhance the co-ordination and reporting of extension and training services to agricultural industries in the Wet Tropics for Reef Plan outcomes.	50
	Funding to Dalrymple Landcare to establish a demonstration of the economic benefits of restoring land condition on basalt land types within the Upper Burdekin Catchment.	50
	The implementation of DEHP Grazing BMP Project in the Fitzroy and Burdekin Regions is a Fitzroy Basin Association Collaborative Agreement with DAFF, utilising funding from the State Government Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. The project is supported by 3.5 FTE base contribution and 2.5 externally funded FTE.	564
	Wetlands in Agriculture Training Extension and Resources is a 5 year project funded under the Qld NRM Investment Program to increase the knowledge and capacity of producers and practitioners in managing agricultural land to improve the ecological function and values of wetlands. The project has activities in the Mackay Whitsundays, Burdekin and Wet Tropics regions. This project is a deliverable under Action 6 of Reef Plan (0.5FTE).	100
		<b>4,142</b>
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>		
	Funding for staff (1.45FTEs) to measure the level of adoption of improved management practices for Reef Plan's Paddock to Reef Monitoring and Evaluation Program.	148
	Contract for independent monitoring and evaluation of DAFF's Reef Plan extension activities.	50
	Funding for grazing management practice adoption surveys funded by DEHP.	75
	Real Time Water Quality Monitoring project to install an additional real-time WQ monitoring site to supplement the existing monitoring site at Barratta Creek in the Burdekin. The monitoring device will be portable to enable its movement into other areas such as wetlands downstream from the monitoring site or wherever WQ analysis is required. The project will provide cane growers with real time data showing changes to water quality as a result of their practices.	50
	Funding to complete the project to integrate and enhance the existing seagrass monitoring component of Reef Plan's Marine Monitoring Program; part of the Paddock to Reef Monitoring and Evaluation Program. The funding allowed the monitoring of "pristine" reference sites in Cape York and study sites adjacent to rivers (Wet Tropics and Burdekin Dry Tropics) where on-land management practices have been initiated in catchments with little industrial/urban inputs. The project monitors sites in the Bowling Green Ramsar area where a well defined agricultural area is closely linked with an important, productive estuarine fisheries habitat and improved land management practices can be related to water quality outcomes.	15
		<b>338</b>
<b>DAFF Reef Plan support and operational co-ordination</b>		
	Research facility support to research and BMP operations for the grazing, cane and horticulture industries.	115
	Funding for 2.4 FTEs to help co-ordinate extension activities in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin and Mackay Whitsunday regions.	278
	DAFF funding towards management and administration of Reef Plan related projects.	525
		<b>918</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6,612</b>

**ATTACHMENT 3 ~ 2014-15 PROJECTS AND BUDGETED EXPENDITURE**

2014-15	Description	Planned Expenditure \$'000
<b>Research, Development and Innovation</b>		
	DAFF funding to Sugar Research Australia research projects for Reef Plan outcomes	1,234
		<b>1,234</b>
<b>Extension and Education</b>		
	MOU with EHP for extension support to BMP programs	2,000
	Grazing BMP project	560
	DAFF base extension support	858
	Wetlands in Agriculture Training and Extension Program	100
	Extension Coordination	292
	Economic support	675
		<b>4,485</b>
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>		
	Paddock to Reef Program	219
		<b>219</b>
<b>DAFF Reef Plan support and operational co-ordination</b>		
	Project oversight and support	497
	Research facility operation	121
		<b>618</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6,556</b>

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

**No. 2**

**Asked on 25 June 2014**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

With reference to page 10 of the SDS and the Commonwealth contribution to the Department; will the Minister detail all Commonwealth programs which are ceasing or having allocations reduced in the 2014-15 financial year, including the size of the reduction?

**ANSWER:**

With regard to page 10 of the SDS and the Commonwealth contribution to the department:

- a) the following Commonwealth funded programs have ceased in 2014-15:
- previous funding agreements for National Cost Sharing programs around biosecurity. Funding arrangements for National Cost Sharing programs for 2014-15 are yet to be finalised
  - the completion of several research and development projects funded by the Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research and the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, and
  - the completion of a fisheries project.
- b) the following Commonwealth funded programs have reduced in 2014-15:
- research and development projects with the Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research and the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture (\$669,000)
  - animal biosecurity and welfare, and invasive plants and animals projects (\$164,000), and
  - soil and fertilisation projects (\$47,000).

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

**No. 3**

**Asked on 25 June 2014**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

With reference to page 13 of the SDS, will the Minister explain the reason for the reduction in the allocation for the Queensland Cattle Industry Biosecurity Fund and the size of this reduction? Further will the Minister provide an expenditure breakdown by financial year for the life of the program?

**ANSWER:**

A total allocation of \$5 million was provided for the Queensland Cattle Industry Biosecurity Fund, with \$2 million being allocated in 2012-13 and \$3 million in 2013-14.

In 2013-14, there was a lower than expected uptake of the Bovine Johne's Disease (BJD) Assistance Scheme, with an estimated \$700,000 expenditure out of the \$3 million allocated funding.

This means that \$2.3 million was deferred from 2013-14 to 2014-15 to extend the funding of the assistance scheme through to March 2015.

However, the total funding for the program has not been reduced.

Total expenses for the life of program are shown in the table below:

<b>2012-13 Actual \$'000</b>	<b>2013-14 Estimated Actual \$'000</b>	<b>2014-15 Estimate \$'000</b>
2,000	700	2,300

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

**No. 4**

**Asked on 25 June 2014**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

With reference to page 3 of the SDS, the department's priority to establish effective business relationships in key Asian markets and the decision by Singapore-owned Wilmar Sugar to withdraw from the voluntary single desk export marketing pool; will the Minister detail the Government's response to this issue and whether any consideration is being given to reregulate the sugar industry?

**ANSWER:**

The announcement by Wilmar Sugar to move away from the current marketing arrangements in 2017 will have an impact across the sugar supply chain. While the State Government recognises Wilmar has the legal and commercial right to make decisions of this nature, it also recognises that many growers and some millers wish to continue with the current marketing arrangements through Queensland Sugar Limited (QSL).

To ensure Queensland cane farmers continue to have confidence in the marketing of the state's sugar, the State Government will investigate the potential impact of the three dominant sugar milling organisations in the State – Willmar, MSF and Tully Mills – to ignore long-held canegrower preferences for the industry-owned and not-for-profit traditional marketer, QSL, to continue to market Queensland's sugar.

The State Government is disappointed by the decision of the three, major internationally-owned millers to withdraw from QSL. Their presence and investment in the industry is welcome, but their apparent disregard for long-held industry practices and understandings is of great concern.

Consequently, the State Government is formally requesting action by the Federal Government, and will simultaneously investigate potential solutions through State legislation. In the meantime, the State Government continues to call on all sectors of the industry to step up their own efforts to reach resolution.

The State Government will write to Federal Treasurer the Hon. Joe Hockey calling on him to formally consider powers under the Federal Competition and Consumer Act in relation to the millers' announcement to depart long-standing marketing arrangements with QSL. Any consideration under the Federal Act may require a major assessment of the economic impact of the millers' decision to withdraw from QSL and the State Government stands ready to provide the Federal Government with any assistance required to complete this assessment.

The State Government will also refer this issue to the Agriculture Cabinet Committee to investigate whether the practice of growers choosing where their economic interest in the sugar is marketed, could be preserved in the current

*Sugar Industry Act 1999*. The Australian Sugar Milling Council, Canegrowers and ACFA will be called to make submissions and present to the Agriculture Cabinet Committee on this key issue.

As previously stated, the State Government's preferred position is for growers to be offered a real choice in marketing arrangements. While the State Government will be conducting its own investigations and is calling on the Federal Government to do the same, all sectors of the industry need to show stronger leadership and pursue commercial solutions to this impasse.

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

**No. 5**

**Asked on 25 June 2014**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

With reference to page 34 of the SDS and the staffing allocation for the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges, will the Minister;

- (a) provide a breakdown of these positions by title, remuneration level and location
- (b) confirm whether any redundancies have taken place over the last financial year
- (c) provide a list of all positions which have been discontinued over the last financial year by title, remuneration level and location?

**ANSWER:**

- (a) Details on positions by title, remuneration level and location are attached.
- (b) There were 11 redundancies in 2013-14.
- (c) The list of positions discontinued in 2013-14 are detailed in the following table:

Position Title	Remuneration Level	Annual Salary	Location
Executive Support Officer	AO3	\$56,261.40	Corporate - Gatton
Customer Service Support/Call Centre Officer	AO3	\$56,261.40	Corporate - Mareeba
Training Coordinator	AO4	\$65,832.00	Longreach
Manager Business Development	AO7	\$96,168.80	Corporate - Gatton
Production Officer	OO3	\$46,160.40	Longreach
Support Officer	OO4	\$52,735.80	Emerald
Student Services Officer	OO4	\$52,735.80	Emerald
Domestic Service Officer / Cook	OO4	\$52,735.80	Longreach
Production Coordinator - Manningham	OO7	\$72,524.40	Longreach
Instructor	ZINS	\$74,703.20	Longreach
Instructor	ZINS	\$74,703.20	Mareeba

## Attachment

2014-15 Budgeted FTE by Location	Budget FTE	Remuneration Level	Annual Salary (\$)
<b>Bundaberg</b>	<b>2.1</b>		
Instructor	2.1	ZINS	73,251
<b>Burdekin</b>	<b>10</b>		
Customer Services Officer	3	ZAO2	48,175
Instructor	3	ZINS	73,251
Manager Rural Training Queensland North	1	ZAO7	98,285
Senior Customer Services Officer	2	ZAO4	67,280
Training Coordinator	1	ZAO4	67,280
<b>Dalby</b>	<b>5.7</b>		
Audit Compliance Officer	1	ZAO4	67,280
Customer Service Support -Call Centre Officer	1	ZAO3	57,499
Customer Services Officer	1	ZAO2	48,175
Educational Data Supervisor	1	ZAO5	77,279
Senior Instructor	1.7	ZINS	73,251
<b>Emerald</b>	<b>37.45</b>		
Casual Duty Officer	1.75	ZOO3	47,176
Cook	3.6	ZOO3	47,176
Cook - Narayen	1	ZOO3	47,176
Customer Services Officer	3	ZAO2	48,175
Director Emerald Agricultural College	1	ZSO3	131,199
Domestic Services Coordinator	1	ZOO5	61,052
Domestic Services Officer	2	ZOO2	44,035
Facilities Coordinator	1	ZOO5	61,052
Human Resource Advisor	1	ZAO5	77,279
Maintenance Officer	2.5	ZOO3	47,176
Procurement Officer	1	ZAO3	57,499
Production Support Officer	2	ZOO4	53,896
Program Manager Course Development and Compliance	1	ZAO6	87,475
Program Manager Engineering	1	ZAO6	87,475
Program Manager Livestock	1	ZAO6	87,475
Program Manager Plant Production	1	ZAO6	87,475
Project Officer	1	ZAO5	77,279
Senior Customer Service Officer	1	ZAO4	67,280
Instructor	7	ZINS	73,251
Student Services Coordinator	1	ZAO6	87,475
Student Services Officer	0.6	ZOO3	47,176
Training Coordinator	2	ZAO4	67,280
<b>Gatton</b>	<b>24</b>		
Business Support Officer	1	ZAO5	77,279
Communications and Marketing Manager	1	ZAO7	98,285

Customer Service Officer	1	ZA03	57,499
Director Business Improvement	1	ZA08	107,534
Executive Director	1	SES2.5	158,410
Executive Officer	1	ZA05	77,279
Finance Manager	1	ZA08	107,534
Finance Officer	1.5	ZA03	57,499
Financial Accountant	1	ZA06	87,475
Human Resources Consultant	1	ZA06	87,475
IT and Telecommunication Officer	1	ZA04	67,280
Manager IT and Telecommunication	1	ZA07	98,285
Manager Rural Training Queensland South	1	ZA06	87,475
Organisational Capability Manager	1	ZA08	107,534
Procurement Coordinator	1	ZA05	77,279
Senior Instructor	1	ZA07	98,285
Instructor	4.5	ZINS	73,251
Senior Project Officer	1	ZA06	87,475
Training Coordinator	2	ZA04	67,280
<b>Longreach</b>	<b>33.9</b>		
Assistant Instructor	1	Z004	53,896
Butcher/Slaughterer	2	Z005	61,052
Casual Duty Officer	5	Z003	47,176
College Director	1	ZS01	119,590
Cook	1	Z003	47,176
Customer Service Officer	1	ZA03	57,499
Domestic Services Coordinator	0.8	Z005	61,052
Domestic Services Officer	3.5	Z002	44,035
Facilities Coordinator	1	Z005	61,052
Maintenance Officer	2	Z003	47,176
Manager Assets and Facilities	1	ZA07	98,285
Production Coordinator	1	Z007	74,120
Production Officer	2.6	Z003	47,176
Program Coordinator	1	ZA04	67,280
Program Manager Course Development and Compliance	1	ZA06	87,475
Project Officer Assets and Facilities	1	ZA04	67,280
Senior Customer Services Officer	1	ZA04	67,280
Instructor	5	ZINS	73,251
Student Services Coordinator	1	ZA06	87,475
Workplace Health and Safety Advisor	1	ZA05	77,279
<b>Mackay</b>	<b>1.2</b>		
Instructor	1.2	ZINS	73,251
<b>Mareeba</b>	<b>5.3</b>		
Instructor	5.3	ZINS	73,251
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>119.65</b>		

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

**No. 6**

**Asked on 25 June 2014**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

With reference to page 34 of the SDS and the performance measure “average cost per competency successfully completed,” will the Minister;

- (a) Detail the number of competencies successfully completed in the 2013-14 financial year
- (b) Detail the number of competencies projected to be successfully completed in the 2014-15 financial year
- (c) Provide a breakdown on the investments in product development in 2013-14 which have contributed to the failure to meet the target for this performance measure
- (d) Confirm whether these investments are expected to continue in the 2014-15 financial year and provide a breakdown of these expected investments
- (e) Provide benchmark figures for the equivalent cost in both the TAFE and private training systems?

**ANSWER:**

- (a) The actual competencies successfully completed in 2013-14 is 12,245.
- (b) The budgeted competencies successfully completed in 2014-15 is 13,200.
- (c) and (d)

Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges (QATC) invested in the development of new products and funding programs in 2013-14 to establish additional revenue streams in 2014-15 and beyond.

Investment in product development increases the total cost of the organisation which increases the average cost per competency. Further investment in products will be required in 2014-15 and beyond to ensure QATC's products continue to meet industry requirements and standards.

The estimated actuals in product investment for 2013-14 and the 2014-15 budget in product investment are detailed in the following table:

<b>Product Investment Project</b>	<b>2013-14 Estimated Actuals (\$'000s)</b>	<b>2014-15 Budget (\$'000s)</b>
Development of product at residential colleges	220	140
Development of literacy, language and numeracy program	84	50
Development of online/blended training competencies	57	320
Upgrading existing resources and assessments to new training packages	103	110
Development of new training product for RTQ (Industry Training)	79	260
VET Fee Help Program	49	40
Industry validation of existing and new training products	20	80
Total	612	1,000

- (e) Benchmark figures are unavailable for comparison to TAFE Institutes and Private Training Providers at a detailed level that enables appropriate comparisons of the rural training products delivered by Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges.

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

**No. 7**

**Asked on 25 June 2014**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

With reference to page 8 of the SDS and the department's objective to maximize financial returns from the sale of forest products and quarry material; will the Minister detail;

- (a) the royalties from each activity received in 2013-14, reported separately
- (b) the projected royalties from each activity for 2014-15, reported separately?

**ANSWER:**

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry manages a range of programs that involve the responsible extraction and use of natural resources on a range of State-owned lands. These resources include quarry materials and forest products such as native hardwood and cypress timber and other products such as foliage, seed and wildflowers.

The department issues sales permits to commercial enterprises under the provisions of the *Forestry Act 1959*, with these permits stipulating the royalties payable to the State for the resources extracted.

The majority of the forest products are sourced from Queensland's three million hectares of State forests. State forests are now managed on a multi-use basis to allow for a range of uses such as timber production, grazing, beekeeping, conservation and recreation, as well as accommodating some built infrastructure and mining operations.

The Government also recognises the importance of quarry material to underpin infrastructure development in the State, including mining-related infrastructure. Quarry material sales permits overseen by the department are the source of some 16 per cent of the total quarry material used in Queensland each year.

The table below provides estimated actual revenues for the 2013-14 financial year, and projected royalties for the 2014-15 period for the sales of forest products and quarry material.

PRODUCT TYPE	ROYALTIES	
	Estimated Actual 2013-14 FY	Projected 2014-15 FY
Forest Products	\$ 13,620,105	\$ 11,250,000
Quarry Materials	\$ 11,494,183	\$ 9,200,000

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

**No. 8**

**Asked on 25 June 2014**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

With reference to page 3 of the SDS and the buy-back of fishing licenses and authorities, will the Minister;

- (a) Provide a breakdown of the purchased licenses and authorities by geographic area?
- (b) Provide a breakdown of the remaining licenses and authorities by geographic area?

**ANSWER:**

- (a) Two schemes have been completed to date under the netting buy-back election commitment. This has resulted in the purchase of 69 large mesh netting authorities. The geographic breakdown of the primary areas these authorities worked in 2011-12 was:

- 6 in north Queensland (north of Townsville),
- 14 in central Queensland (between Townsville and Bundaberg) and
- 25 in southern Queensland (south of Bundaberg).

There were 24 authorities with no netting catch.

- (b) As at 1 July 2014 there were 329 large mesh netting authorities that have not yet been purchased through the buy-back. These are comprised of:

- N1 (general purpose) authorities – 125
- N2 (barramundi) authorities – 141
- K (ocean beach) authorities – 36
- N10 (tunnel net) authorities – 22
- N4 (East Coast offshore) authorities – 6.

(Note one licence has both a K8 and an N10 authority).

The geographic breakdown of the areas the authorities primarily worked in 2011-12 was:

- 16 in north Queensland (north of Townsville),
- 137 in central Queensland (between Townsville and Bundaberg) and
- 147 in southern Queensland (south of Bundaberg).

29 authorities reported no netting catch.

It should be noted that the catch data used was for the 2011-12 financial year. This year was selected as it represented the last complete data set prior to commencement of the buyback. It would be expected that the number of active licences would vary from year to year and by region as it is the choice of individual operators as to when and where to use their netting authority.

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

**No. 9**

**Asked on 25 June 2014**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

With reference to page 3 of the SDS and the Government's plan to continue to rationalise agri-science research facilities, will the Minister provide a breakdown of;

- (a) Agri-science facilities which have been closed since March 2012 including any revenue received from the sale of these properties
- (b) Agri-science facilities which will be closed in the 2014-15 financial year and beyond
- (c) Agri-science facilities which have been upgraded since March 2012 including the purpose and cost of the upgrade
- (d) Agri-science facilities which are planned for upgrades in the 2014-15 financial year and beyond, including the purpose and expected cost of each upgrade?

**ANSWER:**

Over the past four years, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) has undertaken a rationalisation and revitalisation of run-down and underutilised research facilities to provide Queensland with world-class agricultural research infrastructure to underpin high quality agricultural research.

The net proceeds from the sale of properties will be allocated to offset the transition costs to exit properties and towards the on-going revitalisation of remaining DAFF research facilities.

- (a) Agri-science Research Facilities sold (settled) between March 2012 and 30 June 2014 are as per the table below:

<b>Research Facilities Properties Sold – March 2012 to June 2014</b>			
<b>Property</b>	<b>Date of Sale</b>	<b>Sale Price</b>	<b>Settlement Date</b>
Emerald	21/12/2011	\$845,000	1/06/2012
Mutdapilly - Lot 2	7/12/2012	\$1.3 million	7/01/2013
Toorak	21/11/2012	\$3.5 million	26/02/2013
Southedge	11/02/2013	\$1.3 million	27/03/2013
Sherwood (incl. GST)	Tender	\$5.5 million	27/05/2013
Brigalow	6/03/2013	\$5.55 million	4/06/2013
Mutdapilly - Lot 130	22/04/2013	\$3.05 million	14/06/2013
Swans Lagoon farm blocks - Lot 4	4/09/2013	\$220,000	4/10/2013
Swans Lagoon farm blocks - Lots 1 and 2	24/09/2013	\$330,000	24/10/2013
Swans Lagoon farm blocks - Lot 3	1/11/2013	\$125,000	2/12/2013
Biloela farming land	30/10/2013	\$1.75 million	17/01/2014
Eagle Farm	1/11/2013	\$4 million	3/01/2014
Swans Lagoon	6/03/2014	\$7.2 million	14/04/2014
Rosebank	24/03/2014	\$2.5 million	23/04/2014
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$37,170,000</b>	

- (b) There are no planned closures of Agri-Science Research Facilities for 2014-15 or beyond. We are however putting to market 6 light industrial blocks at Biloela and 1 small lot at Mutdapilly that remain following the sale of the majority of agriculture land at each research facility. Also the Deception Bay site which is currently under contract with the Moreton Bay Regional Council is expected to settle in August 2014.

The review of operational sites is a continuous process and aligned to research and development priorities set by the National Primary Industries Research, Development and Extension Framework.

- (c) The following Agri-science facilities have been upgraded since March 2012:

2012-13 - \$3.6 million for the upgrade of Spyglass Beef Research Facility to be research ready. \$0.5 million for the upgrade of research infrastructure at Brian Pastures Research Facility. \$1.6 million under the Research Facilities Development program for various facilities and infrastructure upgrades and replacements including machinery sheds, multi-purpose sheds, water supply and reticulation systems, glasshouses, internal road-works and controlled environment facilities.

2013-14 - \$1.8 million for the upgrade of Spyglass Beef Research Facility to be research ready. \$1 million under the Research Facilities Development Program for various facilities and infrastructure upgrades and replacements including fencing and security gates, water supply and reticulation systems, Glasshouses, seed processing and storage facility, laboratory modifications, processing shed, cold-rooms and freezers.

- (d) Planned upgrades to Agri-science facilities for 2014-15 and beyond are:

2014-15 - \$0.5 million for upgrades to infrastructure at Hermitage Research Facility. Upgrades to include glasshouses and the controlled environment plant growth facility. \$1 million under the Research Facilities Development program for various facilities and infrastructure upgrades and replacements.

Beyond 2014-15 - \$1.5 million for the completion of the upgrades to infrastructure at Hermitage Research Facility. \$1 million ongoing under the Research Facilities Development program for various facilities and infrastructure upgrades and replacements.

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

**No. 10**

**Asked on 25 June 2014**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

Will the Minister explain what assistance will be provided to landholders whose properties south of Mt Garnet on Goshen and Blanco Falls Roads, Gunnawarra to Kinrara, have been overrun with lantana since Cyclone Yasi?

**ANSWER:**

The area south of Mount Garnet within the Tablelands Regional Council was in the direct path of Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi on the evening of 2 February 2011 and experienced destructive winds of up to 140 km per hour. The area suffered considerable damage.

The joint Commonwealth State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements were activated in response to Cyclone Yasi. Assistance included concessional loans of up to \$250,000, clean up and recovery grants of up to \$25,000 and a grant and loan package of up to \$650,000 for those enterprises that had incurred extreme damage. In addition, assistance was provided for debris removal and clean up in areas worst impacted by Cyclone Yasi.

Under the Arrangements, the Federal and Queensland Government jointly established the Rural Resilience Package to help primary producers and tourism businesses in specific areas impacted by Cyclone Yasi.

Operation clean up was a component of the Rural Resilience Package and activities such as clearing debris from fence lines, access roads and farming areas, watercourses and riparian areas were undertaken in the specified area.

It should be noted that the intent of the Arrangements was to assist with the recovery from direct damage from a natural disaster not consequential impacts. The assistance was not compensation based and did not provide for activities such as environmental maintenance or biosecurity control.

Lantana was well established in the upper Herbert River and Burdekin River catchments prior to Cyclone Yasi. Lantana seed is normally dispersed by birds rather than by wind. The observed increase in lantana may be due to seed dispersed by birds before the cyclone then germinating after the cyclone disturbance, spread of seed by the cyclone or more recent bird dispersal of seed.

To continue to assist landowners in this area, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is undertaking a long-term research and development project for the biological control of lantana.

Since 2011, research officers from the Department have released a number of new biological control agents including the herringbone leaf-mining fly, bud mite and the rust in north Queensland.

At least 11 biological control agents are now known to be present in the region affected by Cyclone Yasi. These agents are seasonally exerting varying levels of control on the lantana.

The bud mite is still being released in all climatically suitable areas in north Queensland where lantana occurs.

Another rust pathogen is being tested by collaborating international researchers sponsored by the Department, prior to any application to the Federal Government for this agent's introduction and release.

**Answers to Questions on Notice**

**Amended answer provided by Hon Cripps to Govt Question on Notice No.6**

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**No. 6**

**asked on 25 June 2014**

---

ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES  
(MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister explain how his aggressive approach to red tape reduction, mentioned on page 11 of the SDS, has reduced the time taken for companies to be granted exploration permits?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government's investment in streamlining approvals processes—through the development of its online tenure application and management system MyMines Online—is starting to pay dividends.

There is no better evidence of this than the time taken to grant an exploration permit for minerals when using the new MyMines Online system.

Since the release of electronic lodgement for exploration permits on 28 October 2012, there have been 587 EPM applications lodged. Of those, 346 (59%) have been decided, on average within the published service standard of 12 months, 211 (36%) remain under assessment and within the client service standard and 30 (5%) are undecided falling outside the published service standard as they are either ranked applications or undergoing a native title process.

This is a concrete result of the efficiencies delivered by the streamlining processes and the MyMines Online system.

This has been achieved by examining every process involved and setting performance standards for processing times. For example, applicants for exploration permits for minerals are now formally advised within 90 days of lodgement whether or not their work program is approved, which means applicants can start the required native title and land access processes earlier, reducing overall time to grant.

Further impressive reductions have been made in reducing the time taken on high-volume transactions, such as transfers, and the registration of mortgages, caveats and agreements. Under the old paper-based system, these transactions took a considerable time to process and tied up valuable staff time which could otherwise be used to undertake higher-value assessment tasks. By automating many of the functions through MyMines Online, time frames have been slashed. The time taken to process non-assessable transfers has fallen by 99 per cent, while the time taken to process assessable transfers has reduced by 85 per cent. The times taken to register a mortgage, caveat or agreement have all reduced by above 96 per cent. This automation has a double benefit, freeing up staff time to focus on progressing applications and renewals through the relevant regulatory processes.

All major permit-management transactions are now available online. In addition, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines has delivered a new customer-focused view of permits, with the new 'applications status' tracking tool allowing users to maintain a real-time view of the status of the various components of their application. This delivers a level of transparency and certainty for customers in planning the progress of their projects.

The department has also delivered increased public visibility of mining and petroleum activity in Queensland, through the freely-available Local Area Mining Report. This free online service returns details of all tenures over a given parcel of land or local government area, which are emailed to a nominated address. Alternatively, users can access the new Mines Online Maps that allows the user to select appropriate layers of activity to view in a spatial environment.

The fact that there are now over 500 registered users of MyMines Online is testament to the success of the system. Its widespread adoption is a strong endorsement that industry has recognised the efficiencies that it delivers in terms of faster processing times.

<b>Documents tabled at the hearing</b>
--

- |  |
|--|
| 1. 17.7.14 tabled with leave by Hon Cripps |
| 2. 17.7.14 tabled with leave by Hon Cripps |
| 3. 17.7.14 tabled by Mr Knuth              |



Tabled Paper No. 1

Date: 17.7.14

Member: Hon. Cr. P. S.

Tabled

Tabled, by leave

Meeting: AREC Estimates Hearing

Clerk at the Table:

**Definition of "High Value Agriculture"**

*(Vegetation Management Act 1999)*

"High value agriculture clearing means clearing carried out to establish, cultivate and harvest crops, other than clearing for grazing activities or plantation forestry.

"Irrigated high value agriculture clearing means clearing carried out to establish, cultivate and harvest crops, or pasture, other than clearing for plantation forestry, that will be supplied with water by artificial means."



Tabled Paper No. 2

Date: 17.7.14

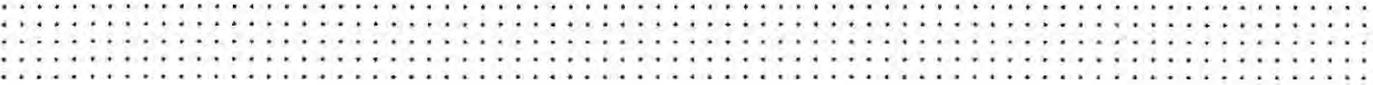
Member: Hon. [Signature]

Tabled  Tabled, by leave

Meeting: AREC Estimates Hearing

Clerk at the Table: [Signature]

## Guidelines for determining high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture



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# 1. Introduction

This guideline has been prepared by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) to assist landholders applying for a permit to clear native vegetation for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture under section 22DAB of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (VMA).

**Before you start preparing a permit application, ensure you read the agriculture self-assessable vegetation clearing code available at [www.dnrm.qld.gov.au](http://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au). This code may allow for landholders to clear vegetation without a permit in order to improve operational efficiency of existing agriculture.**

High-value and irrigated high-value agriculture are two new clearing purposes that will allow landholders to grow their farm business, where it can be demonstrated that they have suitable land available and they have met clearing performance outcomes.

**High-value agriculture clearing** is clearing of native vegetation to establish, cultivate and harvest crops. It does not include clearing for:

- grazing activities; or
- plantation forestry.

**Irrigated high-value agriculture clearing** is clearing of native vegetation to establish, cultivate and harvest crops, or pasture (e.g. a dairy producer irrigating pasture) that will be supplied with water by artificial means. It does not include clearing for plantation forestry.

**Crops** mean annual and perennial horticulture, and broad acre cropping.

**Horticulture** is the commercial cultivation of fruit, vegetables and flowers including berries, grapes, vines and nuts.

**Broadacre cropping** is the commercial cultivation of plants for oil; winter and summer cereals including wheat, barley, oats, triticale, sorghum, maize and millets; pulses including lupins, chickpeas, faba beans, field peas, mung beans, soybeans, lentils, guar and dolichos; sugar cane; rice; cotton; tea; or another commercial crop as approved by the Chief Executive.

A summary of agricultural activities that are permitted under high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture are outlined in Table 1.

**Table 1: Summary of permitted agricultural activities**

Agricultural activity	High-value agriculture	Irrigated high-value agriculture
Broad acre cropping (including sugarcane)	✓	✓
Annual horticulture	✓	✓
Perennial horticulture	✓	✓
Grazing	X	✓ (irrigated pasture)
Plantation forestry	X	X

## 2. How to use this guideline

This guideline has been designed to give landholders an explanation of the information required for high-value and irrigated high-value clearing applications. A summary of these information requirements is provided in Table 2 (page 3).

This guideline should be read in conjunction with the **development plan template** (Attachment 1). By working through the **assessment pathway flowchart** (Figure 1) and development plan template, you will finish with a completed application that can be submitted to the State Assessment Referral Agency (SARA) for assessment. The SARA is the single point of contact for lodgement and assessment of State Government level development applications.

You are also able to lodge the development plan directly to DNRM, to receive confirmation that the proposed clearing is high-value or irrigated high-value agriculture. This confirmation can then be provided to SARA along with the statement addressing Table 8.1.3 of the State Development Assessment Provisions Module 8.

Some parts of the development plan template require additional information to be provided. This is because these parts require more involved assessment that cannot be addressed entirely within the template. These parts are:

*Part 3.4: Clearing footprint*

*Part 4: Irrigated high-value agriculture – water entitlements*

*Part 5: Land suitability*

*Part 6: Financial viability*

**This guideline** outlines the additional information requirements for each of these parts.

In some situations, more detailed information is required for land suitability and financial viability. A second guideline (*Land suitability and financial viability requirements for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture*) has been prepared to assist landholders in providing this information.

## 3. Pre-lodgement meetings

Prior to application lodgement, you are strongly advised to arrange a formal **pre-lodgement meeting** through the State Assessment Referral Agency (SARA) to discuss application requirements.

Pre-lodgement meetings will improve your understanding of what level of detail is required in the application, potentially reducing the requirement for information requests, ensuring your application is processed as efficiently as possible.

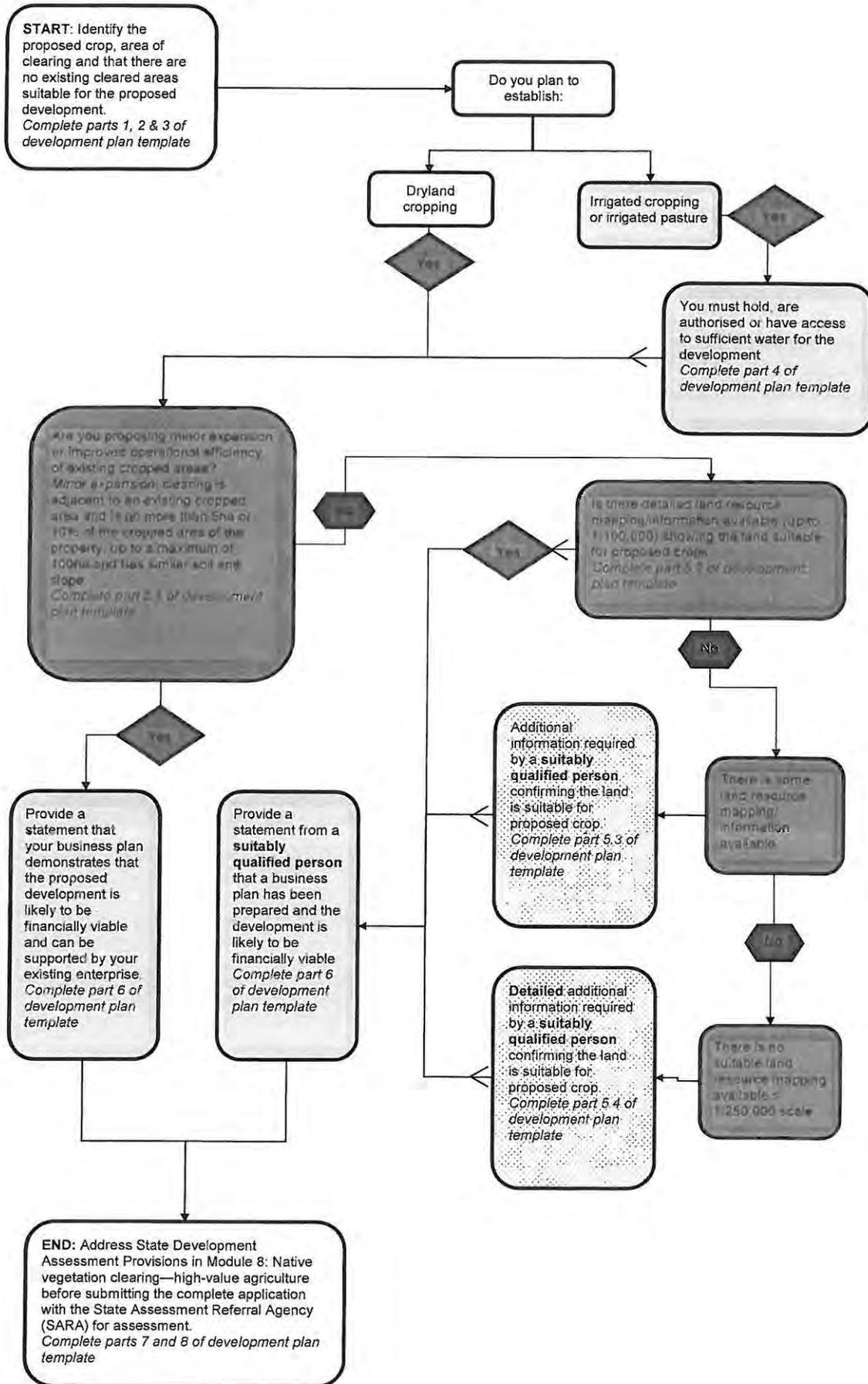
You can also contact your local DNRM office with general vegetation management enquiries and to help you determine if an application is required.

Go to [www.dsdip.qld.gov.au](http://www.dsdip.qld.gov.au) for more information on pre-lodge meetings.

Table 2: Summary of information requirements for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture

Criteria	Information requirements			
1. Particulars of the clearing	Are you applying for high-value and/or irrigated high-value agriculture? What crops are you going to grow? When will clearing be undertaken?			
2. Location and extent of the clearing	Lot/plan information. Show where the clearing will be undertaken on a map or using GPS points.			
3. Land suitability	<p>Minor expansion or improved operational efficiency of existing cropped areas. Information from applicant that clearing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>will improve operational efficiency of existing cropped area; or</li> <li>is adjacent to an existing cropped area and is no more than 5ha, or 10% of the cropped area of the property up to a maximum of 100ha and has similar soil and slope as the existing cropped area.</li> </ul>	Detailed land resource mapping/information available (up to 1:100,000) showing the land suitable for proposed crop/s.	Some land resource mapping/information available but additional information required from <b>suitably qualified person</b> confirming that land is suitable for proposed crop/s ( <i>using Guideline – Land Suitability and Financial Viability requirements for high-value and Irrigated high-value Agriculture</i> ).	No suitable land resource mapping available ( $\leq 1:250,000$ ) so detailed additional information required from <b>suitably qualified person</b> confirming that land is suitable for proposed crop/s ( <i>using Guideline – Land Suitability and Financial Viability requirements for high-value and Irrigated high-value Agriculture</i> )
4. No suitable alternative site for the clearing	Is there any already cleared area on the property where the land is suitable for the proposed development? If so, why can't it be used?			
5. Business plan showing the viability of the development	Signed statement from the applicant that their business plan demonstrates that the proposed development is likely to be viable and can be supported by their existing enterprise.	Signed statement from a <b>suitably qualified person</b> that a business plan has been prepared and that the development is likely to be financially viable ( <i>using the guideline – Land suitability and financial viability requirements for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture</i> )		
6. Irrigated high-value agriculture	Applicant holds, is authorised or has access to enough water for the proposed development. How much water is required for the development and does the applicant have access to it? Copy of existing authorisation. If no authorisation, how will the authorisation be obtained?			
7. Restricted areas	There are currently no restricted areas.			
8. High risk species	Statement from the applicant that they are not planting any species that are declared plants under the <i>Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002</i> .			
9. State Development Assessment Provisions	All applications must be assessed through the SARA and address the requirements in the State Development Assessment Provisions (SDAP).			

Figure 1: Assessment pathway for high value agriculture and irrigated high value agriculture



## 4. Clearing details (development plan template parts 1, 2 and 3)

This information assists DNRM to understand the scope, duration and location of your proposed clearing. It is straightforward information that can be provided directly by the applicant, however more detailed guidance for part 3.4 and 3.5 of the application form is provided below.

### 4.1 Development plan part 3.4 – method used to supply clearing location and extent

The clearing location and extent should be provided in a form that will allow for the accurate identification of the clearing footprint, to assist with assessment and permit creation. There are three options for providing this information, outlined in Table 3 below.

**Table 3: Options for supplying clearing location**

<b>Option 1: Using an image map to show the location and extent of proposed clearing by defining the boundary of the area to be cleared on an image base</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Colour photocopy of an aerial photograph or satellite image.</li><li>• Boundary of the area proposed to be cleared.</li><li>• Grid coordinates for five or more fixed point features (use GPS unit – MGA94) that are visible on the image base (e.g. the coordinates of property boundary corners, dams and houses) and a description of what each features represents.</li><li>• Map details (e.g. title, applicant's name, north arrow, legend, scale bar)</li></ul>
<b>Option 2: Define every boundary of the area you propose to clear using MGA94 coordinates</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide a drawing and a table of GPS coordinates and zone references, which define the clearing area; or</li><li>• Provide a digital copy of a tracklog from a GPS unit defining the boundary of the area. You can provide this file digitally on a CD.</li></ul>
<b>Option 3: Provide a digital mapping layer of the clearing area, suitable for use in a GPS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Digital mapping must be projected using MGA94.</li><li>• File formats for line work, polygons and points must be either: ESRI shapefile or coverage; MapInfo; CAD DXF; or KML.</li><li>• File formats for graphics (e.g. aerial photographs, satellite imagery) must be either: TIFF; GeoTIFF; JPG; GeoJPG; Endas Imagine IMG format (no BMP); or Arc Grid.</li></ul>

## 4.2 Development plan template part 3.5 – no suitable alternative site

The template asks the question: *Are there existing cleared areas on the property where the land is suitable for the proposed development?*

The purpose of this requirement is to ensure there are no other sites on the property where the proposed agricultural activity could occur without the need for vegetation clearing. In other words, if there are some cleared areas on your property nearby that are currently being used for grazing but would be suitable for the proposed agricultural activity, these areas are a suitable alternative site and should be used instead of the area proposed to be cleared.

If the answer to this question is **no**, simply tick the box and move on to part 4 of the development plan.

If the answer to this question is **yes**, you will need to either explain on the template why these areas can't be used, or re-position your proposed development to these existing cleared areas. This may mean you no longer need to apply for vegetation clearing development approval.

## 5. Irrigated high value agriculture (development plan template part 4)

If you are planning to irrigate your proposed cropping or pasture area, you need to hold, have authorisation or access to enough water (“a water right”) for the proposed development. If you are not planning to use irrigation, that is, you are planning to establish dry land cropping, these requirements **do not** apply.

There are a number of options within Queensland’s existing water regulations where you can meet this water right requirement. The most common options are:

- holding a water entitlement (i.e. water license or water allocation) for the taking of water under the *Water Act 2000*.
- being the customer of a water service provider.

However there are a number of other options where you may have a water right. Please refer to Attachment 2 for a full list of these options.

You will need to provide details and evidence of which water right method applies. You will also need to link the water right to the proposed development by demonstrating that the vegetation clearing area is of a size that is consistent with the amount of water you have available. For example, if you are planning to cultivate 100 hectares to crop cotton, you could provide details of the total irrigation amount on a per hectare basis and demonstrate that there is sufficient water available to grow this crop. If you are operating an existing farming enterprise, you could also provide details of your existing irrigation volumes and link this to the irrigation required for your proposed development.

### **Information source: crop water use tool**

To assist with gathering some of this information, the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has developed a crop water use tool that allows farmers to undertake an approximate calculation of crop irrigation requirements at various localities at different times of the year.

This tool uses a number of assumptions and data sets, including historic rainfall data up to 2009. It also allows for modification of assumptions such as irrigation efficiency to tailor results to better suit individual situations. The tool has a help guide, including a video tutorial to help farmers use the tool.

Once you have a clear idea of the crop you intend to plant, you can use this tool to determine its irrigation requirements. Reports from the tool can then be printed and submitted with your application to support your analysis.

The tool is available at: <http://cropwateruse.dpi.qld.gov.au/>

## 6. Land suitability (development plan template part 5)

Land suitability is the suitability of an area to grow crops based on a range of natural and physical variables such as topography, climate and soil attributes. There are four categories to this criterion, to cater for the range of scenarios and information available to demonstrate that an area of land is suitable for your proposed high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture development:

**Category 1:** Minor expansion or improved operational efficiency of existing cropped areas.

**Category 2:** Detailed land resource mapping/information available (up to 1:100,000 scale) showing land suitable for proposed crop.

**Category 3:** Some land resource mapping/information available.

**Category 4:** No suitable land resource mapping available ( $\leq 1:250,000$ )

Categories 1 and 2 represent areas where the land can easily be identified as suitable and therefore only basic information, provided by the applicant, is needed to demonstrate the land is suitable.

Areas that fall under categories 3 and 4 are less easily identified as suitable, based on existing information, and therefore a "suitably qualified person" will need to provide further information confirming the land as suitable for the proposed crops. A supporting guideline (*land suitability and financial viability requirements for high value and irrigated high value agriculture*) has been prepared to provide detailed guidance on the information requirements for these categories.

### 6.1 Mapping tools for land suitability

Two mapping tools have been developed to assist in the land suitability assessment:

- **Land suitability maps - available online at [www.dnrm.qld.gov.au](http://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au)**
  - By entering your lot and plan, and selecting the crop type, you will receive a series of PDF maps by email. This mapping tool identifies the land resource information and mapping the Queensland Government has available, including the Queensland Agricultural Land Audit, in the vicinity of your property to help determine if your land is suitable for the proposed crops.

It also provides a link to related land resource reports that will contain key crop and soil information to help you assess your proposal against the land suitability categories.

- **Queensland Globe vegetation management maps – available online at [www.dnrm.qld.gov.au](http://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au)** This interactive mapping product contains the same mapping data as the land suitability mapping tool however it also has an image base to assist with identifying property features. Other related vegetation management maps are also available on this globe.

## 6.2 Category 1: Minor expansion or improved operational efficiency of existing cropped areas

This category applies if you are proposing to either:

- a. clear **adjacent to** an existing cropped area and the clearing is no more than 5ha or 10% of the cropped area of the property, up to a maximum of 100ha, and has **similar soil and slope**; or
- b. clear for improved operational efficiency of existing cropped areas.

An "*existing cropped area*" is an area of the property that has been cropped at least once since 2000. "*Property*" includes adjoining lots owned by at least one common owner.

For part A, you will need to provide the following information:

- aerial or satellite imagery showing the existing cropped area under cultivation, e.g. Google map; and
- the size of the existing cropped area and the size of the proposed clearing; and
- a simple description of the soil texture (clay, clay loam, loam, sand etc.), soil colour (for both topsoil and subsoil) and slope for both the existing and proposed cropping areas to demonstrate they are similar.

For part B, you will need to provide the following information:

- Aerial or satellite imagery showing the existing cropped area under cultivation, e.g. Google map.
- An explanation of how the proposed clearing will improve the operational efficiency of the existing cropped areas, for example: more efficient use of farm machinery or irrigation equipment (e.g. allow a full circle of a centre pivot); alleviate tight corners and shorter rows through creating straight lines to assist in vehicle movement; or providing adequate space to improve machinery access or turn around.

## 6.3 Category 2: Detailed land resource mapping/information available (up to 1:100,000 scale) showing land suitable for proposed crop

This category relies on detailed and fine scale land suitability mapping up to 1:100,000 scale to determine if an area is suitable for a particular crop. The mapping and supporting information to help determine if this category applies can be obtained by using one of the two mapping tools described in section 6.1. The two scenarios for demonstrating you have suitable land under Category 2 are outlined below:

- a. If the land is identified on the *Land Suitability Overview Map* as a Category 2 Area, you should then review the *Land Suitability Category 2 Area* map and, using the unique identifier (i.e. map label), determine if the land is suitable for the crop you are proposing, as described in the associated land resource report. Suitable land is represented as land suitability levels 1, 2 or 3 or agricultural land classes A or B. Importantly, the crop you are proposing must also be included alongside these levels/classes. Where an agronomically similar crop is proposed, this crop may also be suitable.

- b. If the land is shown as “potential” for broad-acre cropping, irrigated sown pasture, perennial horticulture, annual horticulture or sugarcane on a Queensland Agricultural Land Audit Map at up to 1:100,000 scale and you are proposing a crop that meets one of these cropping types, then your proposal meets Category 2.

If your proposal meets either of these scenarios, simply print out this mapping and supporting information and submit as part of your application.

If the land does not meet either of these scenarios, you will need to consider whether categories 3 and 4 apply.

#### **6.4 Category 3: Some land resource mapping/information available**

This category relates to areas where there is some land resource mapping or information available however it is not at as finer scale or detail as Category 2 and further information is required from a **suitably qualified person** to confirm that the land is suitable for the proposed crops. This additional information needs to fill in the gaps between the available land resource mapping and information to make it clear that the land is suitable for high-value agriculture.

Scenarios under Category 3 include:

- a. Your application is located in an area which is mapped at scales of between 1:100,001 and 1:250,000 that is based on land resource or land system mapping (including land shown as “potential” for broad-acre cropping, irrigated sown pasture, perennial horticulture, annual horticulture or sugarcane on a Queensland Agricultural Land Audit Map); and land resource studies have been undertaken on the land; or
- b. Your application is located on land that has the same soil type as an existing cropped area on the property or an adjoining property and the proposed crop is the same as that grown on the existing cropped area.
- c. Your application is located on land that is near land that is subject to land resource mapping (up to 1:250,000 scale) and it can be demonstrated that it is the same soil type as land on the resource mapping that is suitable for the crop you are proposing.

With reference to the mapping tools described in section 6.1 above, Category 3 areas should be identified on the land suitability overview map. If you use the land suitability online map tool you will also receive supporting maps that will assist with further assessment. For example, there are Category 3 land resource information and agricultural land audit maps that will show if you meet scenario a.

Once you have identified which scenario you fall under, you will need to engage a suitably qualified person to confirm the land is suitable for the proposed crops. A supporting guideline (*Land suitability and financial viability requirements for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture*) has been prepared to provide detailed guidance on the information requirements for this category.

## 6.5 Category 4: No suitable land resource mapping available

This category is targeted towards those activities for which land suitability is largely unknown. These applications will be in locations where data is either unavailable or at such a broad scale that it does not provide sufficient information for the purposes of this assessment.

With reference to the mapping tools described in section 6.1, Category 4 areas should be identified on the land suitability overview map.

You will need to provide a detailed land suitability study, prepared by a suitably qualified person, for the area the subject of the application. A supporting guideline (*Land suitability and financial viability requirements for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture*) has been prepared to provide detailed guidance on the information requirements for this category.

## 7. Financial viability (development plan template part 6)

A business plan is required to ensure the proposed development involving clearing of vegetation and establishment of crops will be financially viable.

For development under land suitability Category 1 (minor expansion or improved operational efficiency of existing cropped areas), recognising its minor scale and that it is within an existing farming enterprise, all that is required is for the applicant to incorporate this expansion into their existing farm enterprise business planning to ensure it remains financially viable.

For development under land suitability Categories 2, 3 and 4, recognising that the development is either an expansion of an existing enterprise or a new farming enterprise altogether, a business plan undertaken by a suitability qualified person will be required to demonstrate the proposed development is financially viable.

A supporting guideline (*Land suitability and financial viability requirements for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture*) has been prepared to provide detailed guidance on the information requirements for this business plan.

The business plan does not need to be provided with the application, however to ensure this obligation is met, certification in the development plan is required either by the applicant or a suitably qualified person, depending on which land suitability category applies.

For development under land suitability categories 2, 3 and 4, this certification must be by a signed statement provided by a suitably qualified person:

- outlining how they meet the suitably qualified person requirements; and
- certifying that a business plan has been prepared in accordance with the *Guideline – land suitability and financial viability requirements for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture* and the proposal is likely to be financially viable.

The business plan must be retained and made available in the event that this application is audited.

## **8. Development assessment against State Development Assessment Provisions (SDAP) Module 8: Clearing Native Vegetation (development plan template part 7)**

The second stage of the application process requires assessment of the proposed development against the Performance Outcomes listed in Table 8.1.6 (high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture) of SDAP Module 8: Clearing Native Vegetation. You will need to provide a statement addressing each of the performance outcomes.

These performance outcomes are for:

- wetlands
- watercourses
- connectivity area
- soil erosion
- salinity
- conserving endangered and of concern regional ecosystems
- essential habitat
- acid sulphate soils

To avoid any delays or issues in developing and lodging your application, you should consider assessment against the SDAP module 8: Clearing of Native Vegetation at the same time as you prepare the development plan. This is because in certain situations, some performance outcomes may require the provision of an offset.

For more information on SDAP, including the link to SDAP module 8: Clearing Native Vegetation, please go to <http://www.dsdip.qld.gov.au/development-applications/sdap.html>

# Attachment 1: Development plan template

This template contains all the requirements for lodging a development plan. Once you have completed this template and attached the required additional information, you will be able to lodge your development application with the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) for assessment.

Prior to lodgement, you are strongly advised to arrange a pre-lodgement meeting through SARA to discuss application requirements. Visit this website for more information:  
<http://www.dsdip.qld.gov.au/development-applications/state-assessment-and-referral-agency.html>

<b>Development plan Stage 1</b>	
<b>Part 1: Applicant's information</b>	
1.1 Applicant's name:	
1.2 Contact name:	
1.3 Postal address:	
1.4 Telephone number:	
1.5 Mobile:	
1.6 Email:	

<b>Part 2: Clearing particulars</b>	
2.1 Proposed clearing is for:	<input type="checkbox"/> High-value agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigated high-value agriculture (you will need to complete part 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigated cropping <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigated pasture
2.2 Are you proposing one or more of the following: <i>Note: You can select more than one option.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Broadacre cropping <input type="checkbox"/> Annual horticulture <input type="checkbox"/> Perennial horticulture
2.3 Type of crop/s proposed to be cultivated as a result of the clearing:	
2.4 Proposed timeframe for completion of clearing:	

<b>Part 3: Clearing location, extent and no suitable alternative</b>	
3.1 Lot/Plan description/s for property you are proposing to clear	
3.2 Local Government Area	
3.3 Size of area proposed to be cleared in hectares	
3.4 Method used to supply clearing location and extent:  Ensure you attach information which identifies your clearing footprint. Refer to section 4.1 of the Guidelines for determining high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Image base to show area to be cleared and five reference coordinates (GPS points) for the department to spatially reference the data. <input type="checkbox"/> Providing reference coordinates (GPS points) around the entire area of the proposed clearing. <input type="checkbox"/> Providing a digital mapping layer of the proposed clearing, suitable for use in a Geographic Information System.
3.5 Are there existing cleared areas on the property that would also be suitable for the proposed development?  <i>Refer to section 4.2 of the Guidelines for determining high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> No    ► Go to Part 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes    ► Why can't these cleared areas be used? Provide details below or in an attachment.

<b>Part 4: Irrigated high-value agriculture – water entitlements</b>	
<b>Note:</b> You only need to complete this section if you indicated in section 2.1 that the proposed clearing is for irrigated high-value agriculture. Refer to section 5 of the Guidelines for determining high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture	
4.1 Do you hold, are you authorised, or do you have access to enough water for the proposed development?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes  Attach details of water entitlement or authorisation and the water requirements of the proposed development (refer to section 5 of the Guidelines for determining high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture) <input type="checkbox"/> No You cannot apply for irrigated high-value agriculture and will need to consider applying for dry land cropping under the high-value agriculture clearing purpose.

<b>Part 5: Land suitability</b>	
<i>Refer to section 6 of the Landholders guide to high-value agriculture applications for more information</i>	
5 Please indicate the land suitability category you are applying for:	<input type="checkbox"/> 5.1 Minor expansion or improved operational efficiency of existing cropped areas: <input type="checkbox"/> Clearing is adjacent to an existing cropped area and is no more than 5ha or 10% of the cropped area of the property, up to a maximum of 100ha and has similar soil

## Part 5: Land suitability

Refer to section 6 of the Landholders guide to high-value agriculture applications for more information

 Attach details of how you meet the selected land suitability category. For parts 5.3 and 5.4, this includes a Land Suitability Report prepared by a suitably qualified person in accordance with the supporting *Guideline – land suitability and financial viability requirements for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture*.

- and slope; OR
- Improved operational efficiency of existing cropped areas
- 5.2 Detailed land resource mapping / information available (up to 1:100,000 scale) showing land suitable for proposed crop.
- 5.3 Some land resource mapping / information available  
▶ additional information (Land Suitability Report) required from a suitably qualified person confirming that the land is suitable for proposed crop.
- 5.4 No suitable land resource mapping available ( $\leq 1:250,000$ )  
▶ additional information (Land Suitability Report) required from a suitably qualified person confirming that the land is suitable for proposed crop.

## Part 6: Financial viability

Refer to section 7 of the Guidelines for determining high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture

6.1 A business plan is required to ensure the proposed development involving clearing of vegetation and establishment of crops will be economically viable.

For parts 5.2-5.4, section 3 of the supporting *Guidelines for land suitability and financial viability requirements for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture* outlines the requirements of this business plan including information on suitably qualified persons.

The business plan does not need to be provided with the application however to ensure this obligation is met, certification on this template is required.

The business plan must be retained and made available in the event that this application is audited.

- For development proposing minor expansion or improved operational efficiency of existing cropped areas (part 5.1), please consider and sign below:

*I certify that a business plan for my farming enterprise has been prepared and the development proposal is likely to be financially viable and can be supported by the existing farming enterprise.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

-  For all other development (parts 5.2-5.4), please attach a statement, provided and signed by a suitably qualified person:
1. outlining how they meet the suitably qualified person requirements; and
  2. certifying that a business plan has been prepared in accordance with the *Guideline – land suitability and financial viability requirements for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture* and the proposal is likely to be financially viable.

**Stage 2 – Development assessment against State Development Assessment Provisions (SDAP) Module 8: Clearing Native Vegetation**

**Part 7: SDAP requirements**

7.1	SDAP Module 8: Clearing native vegetation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Attached a statement addressing Table 8.1.6 (high-value agriculture) of the SDAP Module 8.
7.2	Integrated Development Assessment System (IDAS) Forms 1 (common details) and 11 (vegetation clearing)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Completed IDAS forms 1 (common details) and 11 (vegetation clearing).
7.3	Application fee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application fee included

**Part 8: Property Vegetation Management Plan (PVMP)**

8.1	As per section 11 of the Vegetation Management Regulation 2012, the prescribed requirements of a PVMP have been met once the following parts of this development plan have been completed:	Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Part 3.4 – location and extent <input type="checkbox"/> Part 7.1 - SDAP Module 8: Clearing native vegetation
-----	--	---

**Part 9: Supporting information**

List below all of the supporting information that accompanies this development plan template. For example, where you see the  icon and you need to provide additional information.

**Description of attachment or title of attachment:**


**Part 10: Applicant's declaration**

By lodging this development plan, I declare that all information in this development plan is true and correct.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

## Attachment 2: Water right options and information requirements for irrigated high-value agriculture (Section 22DAC(2) of *Vegetation Management Act 1999*)

s. 22DA C(2)	Water Right – An owner of land who...	<b>Background</b> <i>For more information on these water rights, you may need to contact regional water service offices <a href="http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au/contactus/water_management.html">http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au/contactus/water_management.html</a></i>	Information required
(a)	Is authorised under section 20 of the Water Act to take overland flow or sub-artesian water for any purpose.	Section 20 of the Water Act outlines where water can be taken without a water entitlement. A person may take overland flow water or subartesian water for any purpose unless: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there is a moratorium notice, a water resource plan or a wild river declaration that limits or alters the water that may be taken</li> <li>• for subartesian water only, schedule 11 of the Water Regulation 2002 regulates the taking or interfering with groundwater.</li> </ul>	Provide details of your property and the relevant water resource plan area or wild river declaration area your property is located in.
(b)	Holds a water entitlement for the taking of water under the Water Act.	A water entitlement includes any of the following: Article I. water licences Article II. interim water allocations Article III. water allocations	Provide a copy of the water entitlement relating to the property.
(c)	Holds an existing authority for the taking of water under section 1089 of the Water Act.	Section 1089 of the Water Act applies if a former water board, customer of a former water board or the chief executive was authorised under a repealed water-related Act or another Act to take or interfere with water.	Evidence that the taking or interfering with water is appropriately authorised.
(d)(i)	When the vegetation clearing application was made, was eligible to participate in an unallocated water release process under the Water Act.	Water Resource Plans and their corresponding Resource Operation Plans can identify volumes of unallocated water for future allocation. This unallocated water may be released through a competitive or non-competitive process.	Evidence that the applicant is participating in a process to obtain access to water through, for example, a tender process being conducted by DNRM.
(d)(ii)	When the vegetation clearing application was made, was eligible to participate in a wild river declaration under the Wild Rivers Act.	Wild river declarations can identify volumes of unallocated water for future allocation. This unallocated water can be allocated through a competitive or non-competitive process.	Evidence that the applicant is participating in a process to obtain access to water through a competitive or non-competitive process under the Water Regulation 2002 or a Wild River declaration.
(e)	Is a customer of a water service provider under the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act.	Registered water service providers include local governments, water authorities and other entities that supply bulk water, water for irrigation, stock and domestic, industrial and urban uses. An 'irrigation service' means the supply of water or drainage services for irrigation of crops or pastures for commercial gain Most customers of water service providers that provide bulk water or water for irrigation are likely to hold a water entitlement under part (b) above. However, water service providers that provide a bulk water service or irrigation service may hold entitlements to water which they sell to customers under contract.	If part (b) above does not apply (that is, a customer <u>does not</u> hold a water entitlement), a third party agreement or contract between the water service provider and the owner of the land for the purchase of water for irrigation, which identifies the volume and period of supply.
(f)	Holds an approval	Waste water can be re-assigned as a 'resource'	You will need to provide:

s. 22DA C(2)	Water Right – An owner of land who...	<b>Background</b> <i>For more information on these water rights, you may need to contact regional water service offices.</i> <a href="http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au/contactus/water_management.html">http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au/contactus/water_management.html</a>	Information required
	under the Water Reduction and Recycling Act, chapter 8 and the resource to which the approval relates is water.	<p>through a beneficial use approval. There are two types of beneficial use approvals: general approvals and specific approvals. General approvals do not need to be applied for and allow anyone to benefit where the conditions of the approval are met. Specific approvals must be applied for and can only apply to a stated project and person.</p> <p>There is currently a 'general approval' in place for associated water (CSG water). This general approval lists standard conditions on the water producer (i.e. CSG operator) and water user (i.e. the irrigator). It also lists the water quality criteria and limitations of water use for irrigation.</p>	<p>Article I. a copy of the 'General Authority' or a copy of the specific approval for the activity that names the owner as having the benefit of the resource.</p> <p>Article II. an assessment of your irrigation proposal against the elements of the 'limitation of use for irrigation' condition 6 of the general authority.</p> <p>Article III. details of the producer (i.e. CSG operator)</p> <p>Article IV. a copy of the written certification you have provided to the producer, containing the information stated in condition 23 of the general approval.</p>
(g)	Application for a water licence under section 206 of the Water Act.	An owner of land can apply for a water licence to take water from surface, overland flow or underground water. The application process for a water licence is significant, requiring public notification and native title assessment.	Provide a copy of the water licence application.
(h)	Holds, or has a right to be supplied water under an environmental authority (EA) under the Environmental Protection Act.	This category relates to environmental approvals issued under the Environmental Protection Act where water is available for purposes such as irrigation.	<p>Applicant to provide:</p> <p>Article I. The EA of the supplier which includes a condition identifying that the EA holder can supply the water for irrigation purposes; and</p> <p>Article II. The third party agreement or contract between the EA holder and owner which states volume and period of supply.</p>
(i)	Is authorised to take water under a law of another State or Territory in compliance with an authorisation declared under the Water Act 2000, section 808(1)(b).	This currently only applies along the Border Rivers where an interstate trade between NSW and Qld has taken place in accordance with the <i>NSW-Qld Border Rivers IGA 2008</i> and the <i>Border Rivers Resource Operations Plan</i> . A "NSW access licence" is considered to be of a similar nature to Qld water allocation.	<p>Applicant to provide copy of NSW access licence which must:</p> <p>Article I. be owned by the <i>eligible owner</i> – ie cannot be a temporary trade</p> <p>Article II. must state authorised works for taking water in Queensland</p>



## Queensland Council of Bird Societies

Representing Avicultural Clubs in Queensland

P O BOX 236 BEAUDESERT QLD 4285  
email: qldebs@gmail.com



Shane Knuth MP  
Member for Dalrymple  
dalrymple@parliament.qld.gov.au

15 June 2014

Dear Shane,



Tabled Paper No. 3

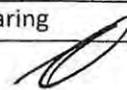
Date: 17.7.14

Member: KNUTH

Tabled

Tabled, by leave

Meeting: AREC Estimates Hearing

Clerk at the Table: 

### New Biosecurity Act 2014 in Queensland

We are writing to you in your capacity as a member of the Queensland Government's Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee which has been engaged, together with the state's Biosecurity agency, in the development of the new Biosecurity Act 2014 which consolidates many pieces of relevant legislation to produce a more coherent and coordinated approach to Biosecurity legislation.

Our letter is on behalf of the Queensland Council of Bird Societies and the National Finch and Softbill Association, and is thus on behalf of thousands of Queenslanders who participate in the hobby of aviculture - the keeping, husbandry and breeding of birds of various types (finches, canaries, budgerigars, parrots, pigeons, doves, quail, pheasant, waterfowl and various softbills), other than commercial and exhibition poultry. Aviculture is a hobby practiced by young and old from many walks of life and across all socio-economic backgrounds.

We wish to advise you of the significant distress and alarm with which aviculturists regard details of the new Biosecurity Act and the way it imposes on all private birdkeepers measures which we regard as unreasonable, which have very little likelihood of success and which add considerable red tape and cost to what is a hobby.

Our concerns are with regard to:

1. The **lack of consultation with any relevant avicultural organisation** during development and consultation on the legislation. Our State representative body, the Queensland Council of Bird Societies Inc., was not consulted and was totally unaware of the legislation until just before the final public consultation on the legislation. The only consultation was through a body representing

those who exhibit (show) poultry and birds, which does not reflect the wider interests of aviculture.

2. The **mandatory requirement for hobbyists with captive birds to register their premises** as a Biosecurity entity.

As we read the new Act, Schedule 5 indicates that the focus is largely around pests and diseases which affect commercial livestock and plant production in the agricultural sector. While we recognise the importance of measures to ensure the Biosecurity of Australian agricultural enterprises, we do not believe captive aviary and cage birds pose sufficient risk to commercial operations to be covered by the Legislation. Nonetheless, as Clause 134 lists "captive birds" as "designated animals" under the Act, all hobbyists who keep 100 birds or more are required to register their premises with the government as part of preparedness for dealing with future Biosecurity incidents.

The Act indicates that government officers will have right of entry to all registered entities. This is a major concern to our members since private aviaries are situated on residential property and many aviary birds are worth hundreds, even thousands of dollars each. This raises the question of who and when 'authorised officers' will visit private property and whether they should be allowed under any circumstances to catch and handle valuable and delicate aviary birds.

The Act also imposes severe penalties for hobbyists who do not register their premises. It appears to us that the broad designation of "captive birds" goes well beyond the commercial poultry sector where significant disease risks do pose a Biosecurity concern.

We acknowledge that a voluntary code has existed for some time whereby aviculturists could register their aviaries with QDAFF. As we understand it very few aviculturists have done so.

There are many thousands of people involved in bird keeping and only a fraction of them are members of clubs and societies. For finch keepers, and many other aviculturists, 100 birds is not a large number. A young finch keeper with 10 pairs of zebra finches will have 100 birds within a year. Many experienced finch breeders would have in excess of 100 birds as they seek to maintain multiple bloodlines of key species of interest. Consequently the administrative task required to communicate with all these entities, to maintain registration details and to lodge movement information every time a bird moves from one premises to another or to and from a sale will be huge.

The Australian Veterinary Association Inc. in their submission to the public consultation about the Act made the same point, noting that

the legislation is too broad in including captive birds held by hobbyists and also notes that the number of Biosecurity entities which might be registered would be huge.

(see

<http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/committees/AREC/2013/18-Biosecurity/submissions/010-AustralianVeterinaryAssociation.pdf>).

In our view the paperwork potentially generated by the legislation goes directly against the current government's stated aim to reduce red tape, reduce waste and reduce the overall regulatory burden on Queenslanders.

- 3. The impact of the legislation on bird sales.** Many aviculturists take advantage of bird sales run by clubs and societies to sell, swap or buy birds to dispose of excess birds or to augment their collections. The new legislation will require that bird sales are registered as a "biosecurity incident" with Biosecurity Queensland and that all movements of birds to and from sales must be documented.

Such requirements ignore the fact that clubs, for example holding a bird sale in Queensland with certain native birds, are already required to obtain a licence from the Qld Dept of Environment and Heritage Protection and pay a significant fee each time a sale is held. So these events are already logged with government and further registration with another department simply multiplies the red tape.

Most native birds sold at such sales or privately are already covered by requirements to lodge a Movement Advice with DEHP. Requiring similar paperwork for every bird movement will simply kill the viability of sales and be unworkable. It would be in Biosecurity Qld's interest to encourage public bird sales and therefore club membership rather than drive bird sales between private individuals underground through restrictive regulation.

### **Aviary Birds are exempt from Biosecurity Legislation in South Australia.**

It is noteworthy that aviary birds are not subject to Biosecurity legislation of this type in other states. In a letter to the QCBS dated 21<sup>st</sup> March 2014 from the Minister QDAFF the Hon. John McVeigh, we were told that: "The registration requirement in Queensland is, however, slightly more precautionary than the national agreed approach which only extends beyond poultry to the extent of emus and ostriches." We question why this should be.

Where similar broadly based Biosecurity legislation was introduced in South Australia, effective consultation between the peak avicultural body (United Bird Societies of South Australia) and

government officers resulted in captive birds held by hobbyists being exempted from the legislation, while aviculture was able to establish a self policing system with a "Biosecurity for Aviary Birds" Code of Practice developed jointly by UBSSA and the South Australian Government (see [http://unitedbirds.asn.au/Biosecurity\\_Manual.pdf](http://unitedbirds.asn.au/Biosecurity_Manual.pdf)). The code does not subvert the ability of South Australia to act in the face of a Biosecurity incident or disease outbreak. All aspects of the SA Biosecurity for Aviary Birds Code could be applied in Queensland aviculture and we believe a similar code could be developed and endorsed through QCBS in Queensland.

### **Aviculturists are already covered by considerable regulation.**

Aviculturists who are members of clubs and societies under QCBS already adhere to the Queensland 'Code of Practice – Aviculture', a code developed jointly by QCBS and Government (see <http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/register/p00055aa.pdf> ). This code sets out requirements for housing and husbandry with the clear objective to maintain health of the birds and avoid disease threats. Likewise QCBS has a Code of Practice for Bird Sales which seeks to ensure the health and welfare of the birds. All clubs in QCBS have adopted such a code.

Private aviculturists keeping native birds are required to be registered with the Dept of Environment and Heritage Protection and utilise Movement Advices for all movements of native birds. Aviculturists keeping some exotic birds are required to register those birds with the Federal government. Furthermore some local councils require birdkeepers to register with the council and pay significant fees and adhere to strict limits of numbers of birds. We are concerned with a suggestion that local councils may participate in implementation of the Biosecurity Act 2014 as this would inevitably lead to additional costs on the hobby.

As a State body (QCBS) and a national body (NFSA) we are committed to the viability and integrity of aviculture and are actively engaged in encouraging high standards of husbandry. Likewise we are seeking to encourage more young people to participate in bird keeping as an engrossing and enjoyable hobby, which teaches much about the husbandry and wider appreciation of birds. The requirement to register their premises for Biosecurity purposes will make bird-keeping considerably less attractive to young members and may well be the last "regulatory straw" for many established aviculturists. This would be an unfortunate consequence.

So in conclusion we are greatly concerned about the implications of the Biosecurity Bill 2014 and concur with the Australian Veterinary Association that the legislation is too broad in including all captive birds held by private hobbyists. A much more workable outcome would be for private aviculture to be exempted under the legislation, but that a Biosecurity Code of Practice similar to that in South Australia is implemented in Queensland through the QCBS, with support from NFSA, and in conjunction with the Department.

We would greatly welcome the opportunity for further dialog on the issues outlined above and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



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President  
Qld Council of Bird Societies  
Tel: 0419 666 674  
Email: [qldcbs@gmail.com](mailto:qldcbs@gmail.com)

## **Appendix 1.**

### **The Queensland Council of Bird Societies Inc.,**

Founded in Brisbane in 1979, the QCBS was established so that bird-keepers in Queensland could have a united voice on matters that affect aviculture, especially legislation proposed at all levels of government.

QCBS provides a forum for all Queensland bird societies to express their views and to contribute to a unified effort to ensure the improvement and promotion of Aviculture.

QCBS will always provide positive advice to government and input via appropriate submissions for amendments where necessary to existing or proposed legislation.

The QCBS is made up of Delegates from affiliated bird clubs across the state of Queensland whose members keep all avian species considered to be ornamental birds. That is, birds that are not kept or raised commercially as a primary industry such as some poultry, emus etc. that produce eggs, meat, oil and other by-products.

Our affiliated clubs' members are owners of native and exotic species of finches, softbills, pigeons and doves, quail, parrots including exhibition budgerigars, fancy and racing pigeons, pheasant, waterfowl, and pet birds - usually parrots.

We do not represent clubs whose members predominantly exhibit show poultry, namely various breeds of *Gallus gallus*, and other species bred and exhibited solely for competition.

QCBS has amicable ties with other state peak bodies with which we exchange information. We also support any national group that represents, and consults with, the states on federal issues.

QCBS maintains that "Aviculture is a hobby not a business" and, as such, private bird-owners receive no tax concessions, benefits or allowable deductions. All fees, licences, aviaries, buildings, equipment, feed and stock are purchased at each aviculturist's private expense.

Now in our thirty-fifth year, dozens of avicultural associations are affiliated with the QCBS representing a combined membership of several thousand birdkeepers across Queensland, demonstrating more than ever our motto: "Unity in Aviculture".

## **Appendix 2.**

**The National Finch and Softbill Association** was formed in October 2006 to provide a forum for unified discussion about issues relevant to finch and softbill keepers across Australia. The formation of NFSA was in part a response to the widespread perception that the interests of finch breeders were not being well represented in various regulatory discussions with regard to aviculture at both Federal and State level.

The NFSA aims to provide wide and enduring benefit for finch and softbill aviculturists. Our Aims and Objectives are:

- To provide a tolerant, impartial and non-divisive forum for collecting the views of finch and softbill aviculturists and providing a cohesive interface with other avicultural bodies.
- To promote the conservation of finch and softbill species both in the wild and in captivity through the support, development and implementation of research and restoration projects, and the establishment of co-operative captive breeding programs for targeted species.
- To assist and advise all governments and their agencies on any matters relating to finches and softbills.
- The National Finch and Softbill Association will strongly and publicly oppose the trapping of wild finches and softbills and the smuggling of finches and softbills and their eggs. It will use its best endeavours to assist government bodies achieve the conviction of bird smugglers, and will advise government on the most effective methods of prevention.
- To improve the image of aviculture as a legitimate and respected leisure activity within the Australian community.

NFSA aims to work constructively with existing national bodies such as the Avicultural Federation of Australia [AFA], Associated Birdkeepers of Australia [ABA] and The Canary and Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc., but we will also develop and express positions and initiatives of particular interest to finch and softbill enthusiasts.

NFSA membership currently includes the major finch specialist avicultural clubs and societies in Queensland, NSW, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia, with an estimated total member representation of around 5000 finch and softbill aviculturists.

**Responses provided to questions Taken on Notice at Hearing**

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES  
QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

LAND SERVICES

asked on Thursday, 17 July 2014

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**MS TRAD** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES (MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

Mapping of Strathmore Station and whether it is suitable for the crops being developed in the area.

Request from the Member for South Brisbane to produce maps in relation to the quality of the soil in this area.

ANSWER:

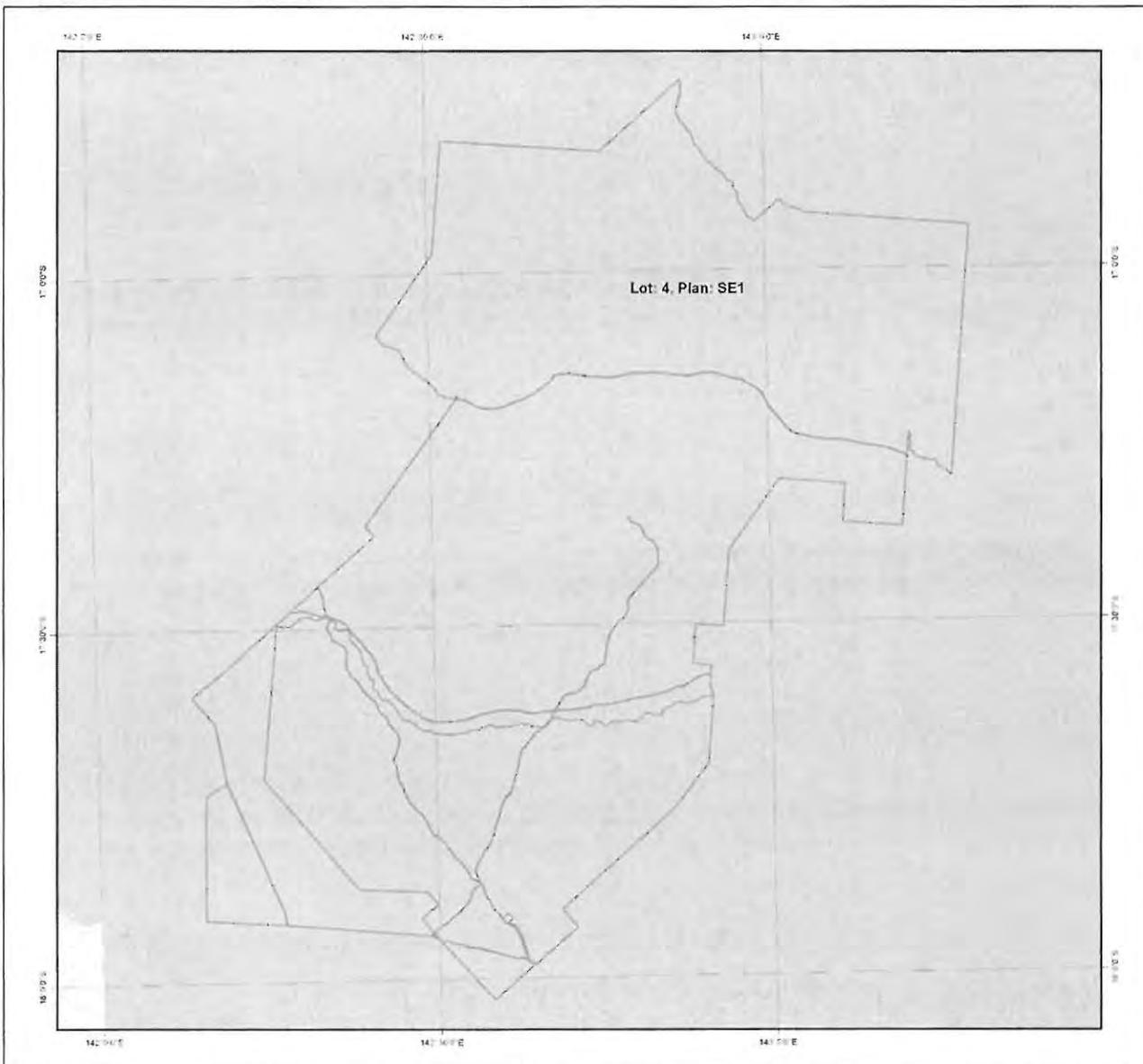
Soil mapping (land suitability map) is available through the Department of Natural Resources and Mines website at: [www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/land/vegetation-management-old/vegetation-maps/vegetation-map-request](http://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/land/vegetation-management-old/vegetation-maps/vegetation-map-request)

These maps are provided free of charge to members of the public upon completion of the vegetation map request form with the result provided as a PDF file to a nominated email address.

There are three steps involved in completing the form:

1. Selecting a map
2. Entering location details (lot/plan or longitude/latitude)
3. Providing an email address.

Location details for Strathmore Station have been entered into the vegetation map request form and the map produced as a result of this request is provided at Attachment 1.

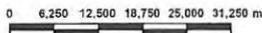


### Land Suitability Overview Map (Map 1)

#### Legend

- Lot and Plan
- Cadastral Boundaries
- Category 2 land suitability mapping (1:100,000 scale or better) - Map 2
- Category 3 land suitability mapping (1:100,001 to 1:250,000 scale) - Map 3
- Category 4 land suitability mapping (greater than 1:250,000) - Map 4

**Disclaimer**  
 All persons and organisations by using this map take all responsibility for assessing the relevance and accuracy of the map contents for their purpose and accept all risks associated with its use. The State of Queensland (as represented by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines) makes no representations or warranties in relation to the map contents, and, to the extent permitted by law, excludes or limits all warranties relating to correctness, accuracy, reliability, completeness or currency and all disclaims all liability for any direct, indirect and consequential costs, losses, damages and expenses incurred in any way (including but not limited to that arising from negligence) in connection with any use of or reliance on the map contents.



This product is projected into:  
 GDA 1994 Queensland Albers

#### Important information

The Land Suitability Overview Map assists with identifying the Land Suitability category under the high value and irrigated high value agriculture vegetation clearing purpose. Supporting Category 2, 3 or 4 Land Suitability Maps accompany this map, providing detailed land suitability, agricultural land classification, or soil and land resource mapping data where it is available on the selected lots. Where no data is available, the maps will be blank, with no mapping visible.

Further information on these categories is available in the Guideline for Determining High Value and Irrigated High Value Agriculture ([www.dnrm.qld.gov.au](http://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au)).



You can access the full survey report through the following website: <http://qldgov.softlinkhosting.com.au/liberty> Search for the report by entering the Project Name or Project Code (e.g. for CBW455 enter CBW) in the search box.

Data is available at: [www.data.qld.gov.au](http://www.data.qld.gov.au)

Definitions for soils data are available at: <http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/assets/documents/land/soil/info-sheet-qgis-soils-data.pdf>

#### OVERVIEW: Project details

Project name	Project code	Start date	Scale
Land Systems of the Leichhardt-Gilbert Area	ZEG2	2003-02-03 00:00:00	1000000
Land Systems of the Mitchell-Normanby Area	ZMN2	2003-02-03 00:00:00	1000000

#### OVERVIEW: Availability

Project name	Availability of report
Land Systems of the Leichhardt-Gilbert Area	CSIRO report. Available at <a href="http://qldgov.softlinkhosting.com.au/liberty/libraryHome.do">http://qldgov.softlinkhosting.com.au/liberty/libraryHome.do</a>
Land Systems of the Mitchell-Normanby Area	CSIRO report. Available at <a href="http://qldgov.softlinkhosting.com.au/liberty/libraryHome.do">http://qldgov.softlinkhosting.com.au/liberty/libraryHome.do</a>

#### CATEGORY 2 Land Suitability Map - Report Summary (Unique ID, map unit, and Ag Land Class)

Project code	Polygon number	Map code	Meaning	Ag Land Class code	Ag Land Class meaning	Last updated
No data	None	None	None	None	None	None

#### CATEGORY 2 Land Suitability Map - Report Summary (Dominant entity type)

Project code	Polygon number	Entity type	Entity code	Entity meaning
No data	None	None	None	None

#### CATEGORY 2 Land Suitability Map - Report Summary (Other soils information)

Project code	Polygon number	Dominant entity percentage	Sub-dominant entities	Dominant SPC generic group	Concept
No data	None	None	None	None	None

#### CATEGORY 3 Land Suitability Map - Report Summary (Unique ID, map unit, and Ag Land Class)

Project code	Polygon number	Map code	Meaning	Ag Land Class code	Ag Land Class meaning	Last updated
No data	None	None	None	None	None	None

#### CATEGORY 3 Land Suitability Map - Report Summary (Dominant entity type)

Project code	Polygon number	Entity type	Entity code	Entity meaning
No data	None	None	None	None

#### CATEGORY 3 Land Suitability Map - Report Summary (Other soils information)

Project code	Polygon number	Dominant entity percentage	Sub-dominant entities	Dominant SPC generic group	Concept
No data	None	None	None	None	None

#### CATEGORY 4 Land Suitability Map - Report Summary (Unique ID, map unit, and Ag Land Class)

Project code	Polygon number	Map code	Meaning	Ag Land Class code	Ag Land Class meaning	Last updated
ZEG2	7	Mv	Maryvale	C2	Pasture Land - native pastures	1/JAN/2013
ZEG2	5	D	Dandry	C1	Pasture Land - sown pastures	1/JAN/2013
ZEG2	37	Mv	Maryvale	C2	Pasture Land - native pastures	1/JAN/2013
ZMN2	465	Ba	Balurga	C1	Pasture Land - sown pastures	1/JAN/2013
ZEG2	69	Gt	Georgetown	C2	Pasture Land - native pastures	1/JAN/2013
ZEG2	70	Gt	Georgetown	C2	Pasture Land - native pastures	1/JAN/2013
ZMN2	419	Le	Leinster	C2	Pasture Land - native pastures	1/JAN/2013

Project code	Polygon number	Map code	Meaning	Ag Land Class code	Ag Land Class meaning	Last updated
ZEG2	9	Mr	Miranda	C1	Pasture Land - sown pastures	1/JAN/2013
ZEG2	25	Mv	Maryvale	C2	Pasture Land - native pastures	1/JAN/2013
ZEG2	42	St	Strathmore	C2	Pasture Land - native pastures	1/JAN/2013
ZMN2	452	Mo	Mottle	C2	Pasture Land - native pastures	1/JAN/2013
ZEG2	17	Tr	Torwood	C3	Pasture Land - native pastures, light grazing	1/JAN/2013
ZEG2	53	Gb	Gilbert	B	Limited Crop Land	1/JAN/2013
ZEG2	33	D	Dandry	C1	Pasture Land - sown pastures	1/JAN/2013
ZEG2	22	Mv	Maryvale	C2	Pasture Land - native pastures	1/JAN/2013
ZEG2	107	Be	Belmore	C3	Pasture Land - native pastures, light grazing	1/JAN/2013
ZEG2	26	Gb	Gilbert	B	Limited Crop Land	1/JAN/2013
ZEG2	32	Ab	Abingdon	B	Limited Crop Land	1/JAN/2013
ZEG2	74	Es	Esmeralda	C2	Pasture Land - native pastures	1/JAN/2013
ZMN2	537	S	Starcke	C3	Pasture Land - native pastures, light grazing	1/JAN/2013

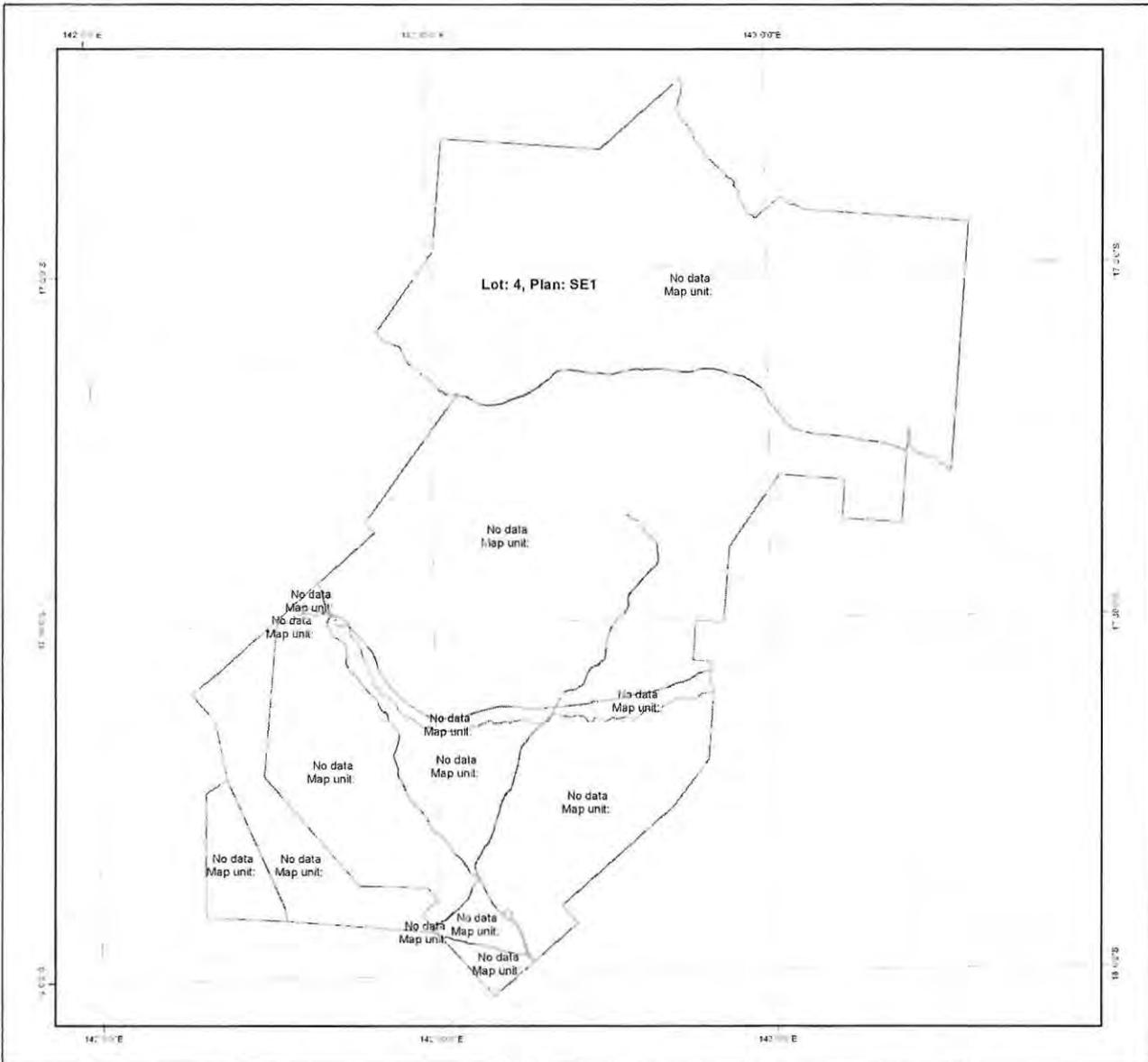
CATEGORY 4 Land Suitability Map - Report Summary (Dominant entity type)

Project code	Polygon number	Entity type	Entity code	Entity meaning
ZMN2	465	LS	Ba	Balurga
ZEG2	25	LS	Mv	Mayvale
ZEG2	70	LS	Gt	Georgetown
ZEG2	9	LS	Mr	Miranda
ZMN2	419	LS	Le	Leinster
ZEG2	69	LS	Gt	Georgetown
ZEG2	42	LS	St	Strathmore
ZEG2	7	LS	Mv	Mayvale
ZMN2	452	LS	Mo	Mottle
ZEG2	5	LS	Da	Dandry
ZEG2	17	LS	Tr	Torwood
ZEG2	37	LS	Mv	Mayvale
ZEG2	53	LS	Gb	Gilbert
ZEG2	33	LS	Da	Dandry
ZEG2	74	LS	Es	Esmeralda
ZEG2	22	LS	Mv	Mayvale
ZEG2	107	LS	Be	Belmore
ZMN2	537	LS	St	Starcke
ZEG2	26	LS	Gb	Gilbert
ZEG2	32	LS	Ab	Abingdon

CATEGORY 4 Land Suitability Map - Report Summary (Other soils information)

Project code	Polygon number	Dominant entity percentage	Sub-dominant entities	Dominant SPC generic group	Concept
ZMN2	465	100	None	Not Applicable	Extensive plains on weathered terrestrial sediments; sandy red and yellow earth and uniform sandy soils; bloodwood-stringybark woodland, some paperbark woodland.
ZEG2	25	100	None	Not Applicable	Timbered sandy plains in the north of the area.
ZEG2	70	100	None	Not Applicable	Lightly timbered, rolling granite plains north-east of the centre of the area.
ZEG2	9	100	None	Not Applicable	Very sparsely timbered plains near the Gulf of Carpentaria. Popularly called Gilbert "delta".

Project code	Polygon number	Dominant entity percentage	Sub- dominant entities	Dominant SPC generic group	Concept
ZMN2	419	100	None	Not Applicable	Extensive uniform old alluvial plains; leached grey and brown massive earths with hardpan; paperbark or bloodwood-stringybark woodland.
ZEG2	69	100	None	Not Applicable	Lightly timbered, rolling granite plains north-east of the centre of the area.
ZEG2	42	100	None	Not Applicable	Timbered plains near the centre of the area.
ZEG2	7	100	None	Not Applicable	Timbered sandy plains in the north of the area.
ZMN2	452	100	None	Not Applicable	Extensive plains on weathered terrestrial sediments, siltstone, and alluvium; massive earths; paperbark or bloodwood-stringybark woodland.
ZEG2	5	100	None	Not Applicable	Extensive, timbered, gently sloping plains in the north of the area.
ZEG2	17	100	None	Not Applicable	Broken sandstone tablelands generally timbered with lancewood.
ZEG2	37	100	None	Not Applicable	Timbered sandy plains in the north of the area.
ZEG2	53	100	None	Not Applicable	Frontage country in the north of the area.
ZEG2	33	100	None	Not Applicable	Extensive, timbered, gently sloping plains in the north of the area.
ZEG2	74	100	None	Not Applicable	Sparsely timbered undulating plains north of the centre of the area.
ZEG2	22	100	None	Not Applicable	Timbered sandy plains in the north of the area.
ZEG2	107	100	None	Not Applicable	Hilly country on the western slopes of the Einasleigh uplands.
ZMN2	537	100	None	Not Applicable	Mountains on volcanics, granite, greywackes and other sediments; deeply dissected plateaux on quartz sandstone; shallow rocky soils; ironbark or mixed eucalypt woodland.
ZEG2	26	100	None	Not Applicable	Frontage country in the north of the area.
ZEG2	32	100	None	Not Applicable	Timbered sandy plains near the Gilbert and Einasleigh Rivers.



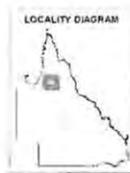
### Category 2 Land Suitability Map (1:100,000 scale or better) – Map 2

#### Legend

- Lot and Plan
- Cadastral Boundaries
- Unique ID and map unit

#### Disclaimer

All persons and organisations by using this map take all responsibility for assessing the relevance and accuracy of the map contents for their purpose and accept all risks associated with its use. The State of Queensland (as represented by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines) makes no representations or warranties in relation to the map contents, and, to the extent permitted by law, excludes or limits all warranties relating to correctness, accuracy, reliability, completeness or currency and all disclaims all liability for any direct, indirect and consequential costs, losses, damages and expenses incurred in any way (including but not limited to that arising from negligence) in connection with any use of or reliance on the map contents.



0 6,250 12,500 18,750 25,000 31,250 m

This product is projected into:  
 GDA 1994 Queensland Albers

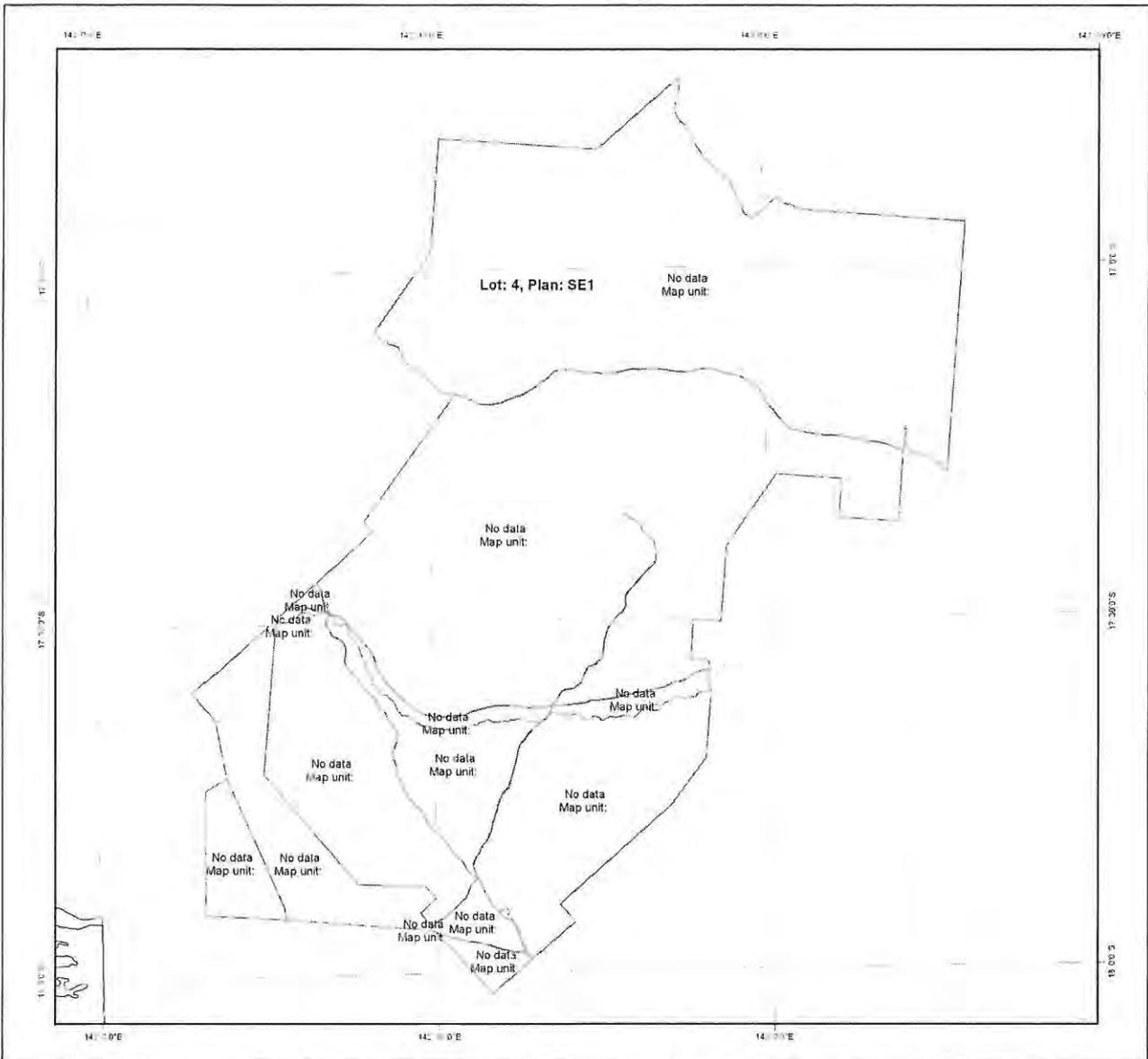
#### Important information

This map can be used to identify an area as a Category 2 Land Suitability Area for high value or irrigated high value agriculture where the associated survey report confirms the land is suitable for the proposed crop.

This map has been produced from data extracted from the Soil and Land Information System on 12/11/2013. Where no data is available, the map will be blank, with no mapping visible.

Report summary tables containing land suitability and land use information is attached to the Land Suitability Overview Map (where available).





### Category 3 Land Suitability Map (up to 1:250,000 scale) – Map 3

#### Legend

-  Lot and Plan
-  Cadastral Boundaries
-  Unique ID and map unit

**Disclaimer**  
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#### Important information

This map can be used to identify an area as a Category 3 Land Suitability for high value and irrigated high value agriculture. A land suitability report prepared by a suitably qualified person is also required to confirm the land is suitable for the proposed crop.

This map has been produced from data extracted from the Soil and Land Information System on 12/11/2013. Where no data is available, the map will be blank, with no mapping visible.

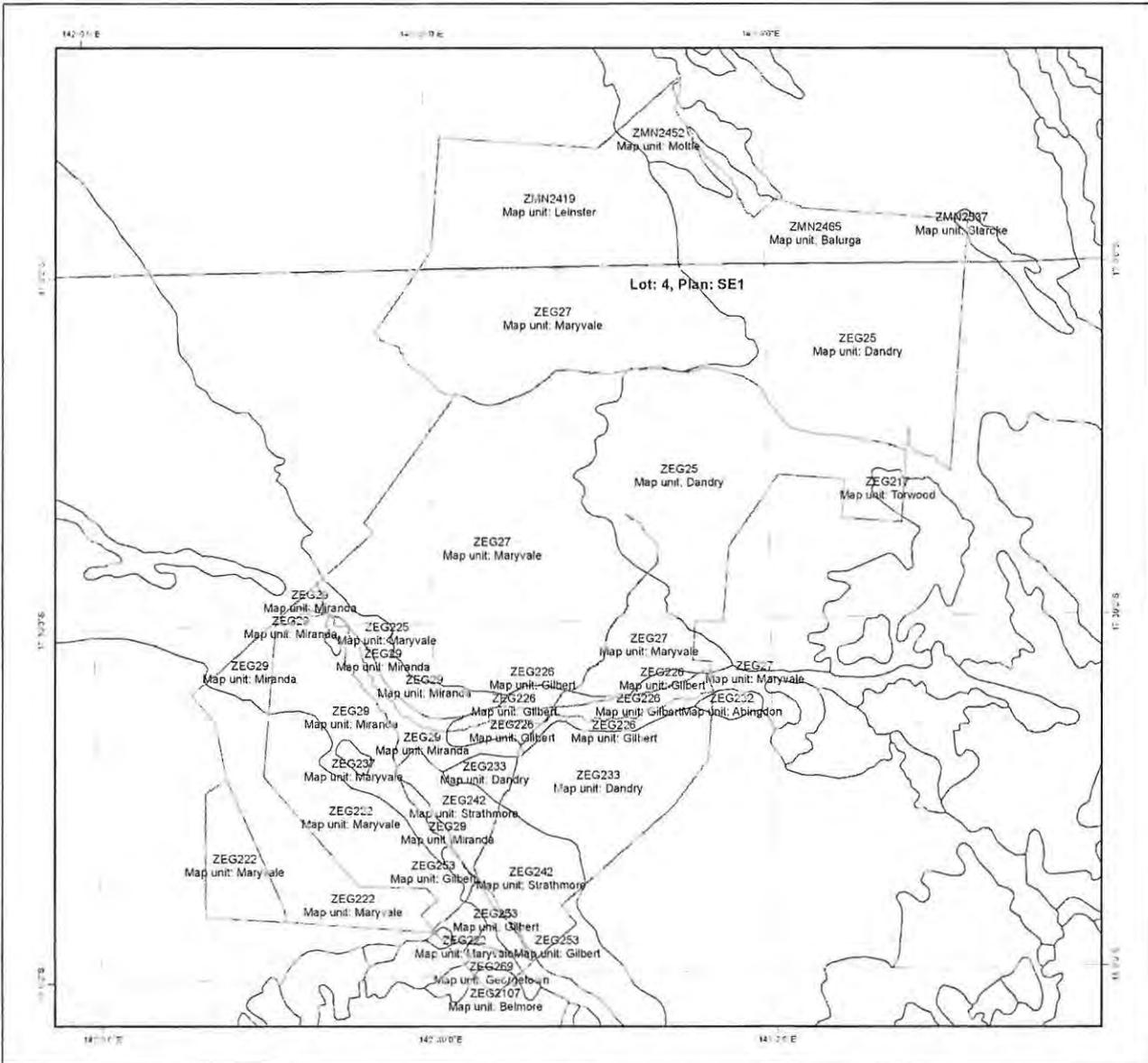
Report summary tables containing land suitability and land use information is attached to the Land Suitability Overview Map (where available).



0 6,300 12,600 18,900 25,200 31,500 m

This product is projected into:  
 GDA 1994 Queensland Albers





### Category 4 Land Suitability Map (greater than 1:250,000) – Map 4

#### Legend

-  Lot and Plan
-  Cadastral Boundaries
-  Unique ID and map unit



0 6,250 12,500 18,750 25,000 31,250 m

This product is projected into:  
 GDA 1994 Queensland Albers

#### Important information

This map can be used to identify an area as a Category 4 Land Suitability for high value and irrigated high value agriculture. A land suitability report prepared by a suitably qualified person is also required to confirm the land is suitable for the proposed crop.

This map has been produced from data extracted from the Soil and Land Information System on 12/11/2013. Where no data is available, the map will be blank, with no mapping visible.

Report summary tables containing land suitability and land use information is attached to the Land Suitability Overview Map (where available).

**Disclaimer**  
 All persons and organisations by using this map take all responsibility for assessing the relevance and accuracy of the map contents for their purpose and accept all risks associated with its use. The State of Queensland (as represented by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines) makes no representations or warranties in relation to the map contents, and, to the extent permitted by law, excludes or limits all warranties relating to correctness, accuracy, reliability, completeness or currency and all disclaims all liability for any direct, indirect and consequential costs, losses, damages and expenses incurred in any way (including but not limited to that arising from negligence) in connection with any use of or reliance on the map contents.



**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**ESTIMATES  
QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**LAND SERVICES**

**asked on Thursday, 17 July 2014**

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**MS TRAD** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES (MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

In relation to numbers of term leases and perpetual leases on rural leasehold land that may be eligible to apply for freehold, please provide figures as a subset of each.

ANSWER:

As at 30 June 2014 there were a total of 5505 leases eligible to apply to convert to freehold under the new rural lease conversion arrangements—comprising 2727 perpetual leases and 2778 term leases.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**ESTIMATES HEARING  
QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**LAND SERVICES**

**asked on Thursday, 17 July 2014**

---

ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES  
(MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

How many coal seam gas wells are now in the Condamine Alluvium?

ANSWER:

The area used for the Condamine Alluvium in this response is the Central Condamine Alluvium Groundwater Management Area.

The current coal seam gas activity in the area extracts gas for domestic supply from the Walloon Coal Measures, which underlies the Condamine Alluvium in this area.

As at 17 July 2014, there were a total of 316 coal seam gas wells in the area covered by the Central Condamine Alluvium Groundwater Management Area.

Of these 316 coal seam gas wells, 215 are development wells, 68 are appraisal wells, and 33 are exploration wells.

The development wells are located on the extreme western margins of the Central Condamine Alluvium Groundwater Management Area.

Specific details on the location of coal seam gas wells, groundwater information and tenures in the area and in the remainder of Queensland are available publicly on the Coal Seam Gas Globe released in October 2013.

All new coal seam gas wells in Queensland are constructed to the Code of Practice released in October 2013. This code is fundamental in ensuring well integrity during construction, operation and abandonment, for sustainable gas production and protection of groundwater resources.

**Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee**

**Question Taken on Notice**

**No. 1**

**Asked on 17 July 2014**

MS D'ATH asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DR MCVEIGH) —

With regard to the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme in 2013-14:

1. Number and origin of staff processing claims each month.
2. Average length of time to process claims each month.
3. Number of claims rejected each month.
4. Explain the difference in the amount allocated to DRAS in the budget documents where in one document the amount is \$15.75m and in the other it is \$18.7m?

**ANSWER:**

1. At the beginning of 2013 there had been no drought for some time and thus only minimal maintenance staff for the scheme was required to process natural disaster freight subsidies. As the drought intensified initially internal resources were temporarily borrowed within DAFF. However once it became apparent that the drought would not end with the last summer wet season it was decided to obtain staff via a temporary employment agency.

*Table 1: Number and origin of DRAS processing staff*

		Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	
DAFF Staff (FTE's)	FTE's	0.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.6	2.6	
Employment Agency Staff (FTE's)	FTE's		-	-	-	-	1	
FTE Combined DAFF and Temp Agency		0.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.6	3.6	
		Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14
DAFF Staff (FTE's)	FTE's	3.6	2.6	2.6	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.8
Employment Agency Staff (FTE's)	FTE's	3	4	6	11	10	10	10
FTE Combined DAFF and Temp Agency		6.6	6.6	8.6	12.8	11.8	11.8	12.8

2. The days to be processed in the table below are from the date of receipt to the date the claim is sent for payment. It excludes public holidays.

*Table 2: average number of days to be processed, monthly 2013-14*

	<b>Jul-13</b>	<b>Aug-13</b>	<b>Sep-13</b>	<b>Oct-13</b>	<b>Nov-13</b>	<b>Dec-13</b>	
Average Days	27	19	15	23	30	37	
	<b>Jan-14</b>	<b>Feb-14</b>	<b>Mar-14</b>	<b>Apr-14</b>	<b>May-14</b>	<b>Jun-14</b>	<b>Fin Year</b>
Average Days	40	31	43	24	16	6	30

3. Rejected claims can include ineligible applications (for example not a primary producer or not in a drought declared area), incomplete applications that the DRAS team is unable to assist producers to complete, or outside the timeframe for submissions. Incomplete applications that cannot be resolved at the original time of application can be subsequently resubmitted once complete information is available.

*Table 3: No of DRAS claims each month that have been rejected and returned to the client as at 9 July 2014.*

	<b>Jul-13</b>	<b>Aug-13</b>	<b>Sep-13</b>	<b>Oct-13</b>	<b>Nov-13</b>	<b>Dec-13</b>	
No.	3	2	7	4	2	6	
	<b>Jan-14</b>	<b>Feb-14</b>	<b>Mar-14</b>	<b>Apr-14</b>	<b>May-14</b>	<b>Jun-14</b>	<b>Total</b>
No.	14	25	17	43	29	73	225

By 30 June 2014 the total number of claims received in 2013-14 was 5682.

4. The difference between the \$15.75 million figure in Budget Paper No.4, which is a new funding measure for drought assistance from the Consolidated Fund, and the \$18.75 million in the DAFF Service Delivery Statement is \$3 million, which is the component of DRAS funded from within DAFF's budget allocation.

**Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee**

**Question Taken on Notice**

**No. 2**

**Asked on 17 July 2014**

MS TRAD asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DR MCVEIGH)—

Based on the answer to Non-Government question No. 9 from the 2013 Estimates hearing, please advise the State forests where timber harvesting operations were undertaken in 2013-14?

**ANSWER:**

Timber harvesting operations were undertaken on parts of the State forests listed in Attachment 1 during 2013-14. Note that this list of State forests is different to the list provided in response to the Non-Government Question on Notice No. 9 asked on 2 July 2013. This is because timber harvesting plans on State forests were adjusted due to the following factors:

- A significant number of severe wildfires occurred during the 2013 fire season and there was a need to salvage harvest fire damaged log timber.
- Favourable weather conditions allowed timber harvesting operations at some locations to be extended longer than expected because roads remained trafficable.
- Salvage harvesting of log timber was required to be undertaken in advance of clearing associated with coal seam gas, coal and other mining activities.
- Overall harvest levels in native cypress forests were lower than anticipated due to some market softening.
- The transfer of some log timber supply agreements to other parties necessitated a location shift of some timber harvesting operations.
- A number of unanticipated opportunistic sales of small quantities of firewood and other products such as fence posts to people living within the vicinity of a particular State forest.

**List of the State forests where native forest log timber harvesting operations  
were undertaken on parts of these State forests during 2013-14**

<b>State Forest Name</b>	<b>State Forest Name</b>
Part of Barakula State Forest	Part of Gurgeena State Forest
Part of Bauple State Forest	Part of Gurulmundi State Forest
Part of Beerburrum West State Forest	Part of Hallett State Forest
Part of Beilba State Forest	Part of Herberton Range
Part of Belington Hut State Forest	Part of Imbil State Forest 1
Part of Bellthorpe State Forest	Part of Jimna State Forest
Part of Benarkin State Forest	Part of Koolbellup State Forest
Part of Blair Athol State Forest	Part of Kumbarilla State Forest
Part of Boompa State Forest	Part of Leyburn State Forest
Part of Borilla State Forest	Part of Macartney State Forest
Part of Braemar State Forest	Part of McLeay State Forest
Part of Brooyar State Forest 1	Part of Monduran State Forest 1
Part of Bundoora State Forest	Part of Neerdie State Forest 2
Part of Camboon State Forest	Part of Oakvale State Forest
Part of Clemant State Forest	Part of Peachester State Forest
Part of Combabula State Forest	Part of Pidna State Forest
Part of Coomingleh State Forest	Part of Ravenshoe State Forest 3
Part of Cordalba State Forest	Part of Ringtail State Forest
Part of Crediton State Forest	Part of South Nanango State Forest
Part of Curra State Forest	Part of St Mary State Forest 1
Part of Cushnie State Forest	Part of Sunnyside State Forest
Part of Dalby State Forest	Part of The Bluff State Forest
Part of Dangore State Forest	Part of Theodore State Forest
Part of Dawson Range State Forest	Part of Thinoomba State Forest
Part of Deer Reserve State Forest	Part of Trevethan State Forest
Part of Delaneys Creek State Forest	Part of Tumoulin State Forest
Part of Deongwar State Forest	Part of Waar Waar State Forest
Part of Devine State Forest	Part of Wallabella State Forest 1
Part of Dinden State Forest	Part of Watalgan State Forest
Part of Duaringa State Forest	Part of Western Creek State Forest
Part of Expedition State Forest	Part of Whetstone State Forest
Part of Ferguson State Forest	Part of Wonbah State Forest 1
Part of Forfar State Forest	Part of Wondai State Forest
Part of Forrest State Forest	Part of Wongi State Forest
Part of Gallangowan State Forest	Part of Yabba State Forest
Part of Gibson State Forest	Part of Yarraman State Forest
Part of Glenbar State Forest 1	Part of Yarrol State Forest
Part of Googa State Forest	Part of Yelarbon State Forest
Part of Gungaloon State Forest	Part of Yuleba State Forest

**Information provided as clarification**



Hon Andrew Powell MP  
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection

Ref CTS 18592/14

31 JUL 2014

Mr Ian Rickuss MP  
Member for Lockyer  
Chair  
Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

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Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3239 0844  
Facsimile +61 7 3224 2496  
Email [environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Rickuss

Please be advised that there is an error for correction in the Estimates transcript provided by email on Tuesday, 29 July 2014.

The correction is in relation to page 5, paragraph 6 of the Estimates transcript.

I propose that the figure \$512,115 is replaced with the correct figure of \$52,115.

Evidence of this funding commitment is available at  
<https://environment.ehp.qld.gov.au/everyones-environment/?project=120018>.

Yours sincerely

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

ANDREW POWELL MP  
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection



Hon Andrew Cripps MP  
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

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The Honourable Ian Rickuss MP  
Chair  
Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Rickuss *Ian*

I refer to the response tabled for Government pre-hearing question on notice number 6 asked as part of the 2014 Estimates hearings, in particular the following paragraph:

"Since the release of electronic lodgement for exploration permits on 28 October 2012, there have been 587 EPM applications lodged. Of those, 346 (82%) have been decided, on average within the published service standard of 12 months, 216 (36%) remain under assessment and within the client service standard and 30 (5%) are undecided falling outside the published service standard as they are either ranked applications or undergoing a native title process."

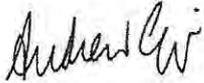
Please find attached an amended response to the question to correct an error in the percentage calculation. The correct percentage as shown in the full paragraph context is:

Since the release of electronic lodgement for exploration permits on 28 October 2012, there have been 587 EPM applications lodged. Of those, 346 (59%), have been decided, on average within the published service standard of 12 months, 211 (36%) remain under assessment and within the client service standard and 30 (5%) are undecided falling outside the published service standard as they are either ranked applications or undergoing a native title process.

As such, in order to ensure an accurate record of proceedings, I seek the Committee's approval to amend page 57, paragraph 5 of the transcript of proceedings from 15 July 2014 to read "*Since the release of electronic lodgement for exploration permits on 28 October 2012, there have been 587 EPM applications lodged. Of those, 346, or 82 per cent, remain under assessment and within the client service standard of 12 months; and 211, or 36 per cent, remain under assessment and within the client service standard; and 30, or 5 per cent, are undecided, falling outside the published service standard as they are either ranked applications or are undergoing a native title process.*"

In addition, I also seek the Committee's permission to amend page 53, paragraph 7 of the transcript of proceedings from 15 July 2014 regarding the assessment of petroleum generation in the Maryborough and lower Galilee basins to read "*we have also been assessing petroleum generation in the Maryborough and the lower Galilee basins as a project.*" I am advised that this project is still underway and not complete as the response could be interpreted.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Cripps". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "A" and "C".

**Andrew Cripps MP**  
**Minister for Natural Resources and Mines**

# AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

## ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 6

asked on 25 June 2014

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ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES  
(MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister explain how his aggressive approach to red tape reduction, mentioned on page 11 of the SDS, has reduced the time taken for companies to be granted exploration permits?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government's investment in streamlining approvals processes—through the development of its online tenure application and management system MyMines Online—is starting to pay dividends.

There is no better evidence of this than the time taken to grant an exploration permit for minerals when using the new MyMines Online system.

Since the release of electronic lodgement for exploration permits on 28 October 2012, there have been 587 EPM applications lodged. Of those, 346 (59%) have been decided, on average within the published service standard of 12 months, 211 (36%) remain under assessment and within the client service standard and 30 (5%) are undecided falling outside the published service standard as they are either ranked applications or undergoing a native title process.

This is a concrete result of the efficiencies delivered by the streamlining processes and the MyMines Online system.

This has been achieved by examining every process involved and setting performance standards for processing times. For example, applicants for exploration permits for minerals are now formally advised within 90 days of lodgement whether or not their work program is approved, which means applicants can start the required native title and land access processes earlier, reducing overall time to grant.

Further impressive reductions have been made in reducing the time taken on high-volume transactions, such as transfers, and the registration of mortgages, caveats and agreements. Under the old paper-based system, these transactions took a considerable time to process and tied up valuable staff time which could otherwise be used to undertake higher-value assessment tasks. By automating many of the functions through MyMines Online, time frames have been slashed. The time taken to process non-assessable transfers has fallen by 99 per cent, while the time taken to process assessable transfers has reduced by 85 per cent. The times taken to register a mortgage, caveat or agreement have all reduced by above 96 per cent. This automation has a double benefit, freeing up staff time to focus on progressing applications and renewals through the relevant regulatory processes.

All major permit-management transactions are now available online. In addition, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines has delivered a new customer-focused view of permits, with the new 'applications status' tracking tool allowing users to maintain a real-time view of the status of the various components of their application. This delivers a level of transparency and certainty for customers in planning the progress of their projects.

The department has also delivered increased public visibility of mining and petroleum activity in Queensland, through the freely-available Local Area Mining Report. This free online service returns details of all tenures over a given parcel of land or local government area, which are emailed to a nominated address. Alternatively, users can access the new Mines Online Maps that allows the user to select appropriate layers of activity to view in a spatial environment.

The fact that there are now over 500 registered users of MyMines Online is testament to the success of the system. Its widespread adoption is a strong endorsement that industry has recognised the efficiencies that it delivers in terms of faster processing times.



Queensland  
Government

Department of  
Agriculture, Fisheries  
and Forestry

Reference: 18566/14

30 JUL 2014

Mr Ian Rickuss MP  
Member for Lockyer  
Chair of Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Rickuss

I am writing to you in your capacity as the Chair of the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee to clarify wording contained in Hansard from the recent Estimates Committee hearing held on 17 July 2014.

On review of Hansard from the hearing it was noted that on page 63, paragraph 4, in response to a question on fire ants the following was recorded – "*It is a new incursion thought to be from South America*". The Minister was actually referring to the south of America, not South America. To avoid any potential confusion for readers of Hansard, this clarification should be noted.

If you require any further information, please contact Michael Besgrove, Director Strategy and Coordination on telephone 07 3239 0868 or email [michael.besgrove@daff.qld.gov.au](mailto:michael.besgrove@daff.qld.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

**Jack Noye**  
**Director-General**  
**Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

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