

2018-19 Budget Estimates Volume of Additional Information

**State Development, Natural Resources and
Agricultural Industry Development Committee**

August 2018

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Minutes of Estimates Meetings
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Queensland Parliament – Committees

State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee

Estimates Meeting No. 1

Parliamentary Annexe - Committee Room 2

Monday, 11 June 2018, 9:30am

Present:	Mr Chris Whiting MP Mr David Batt MP Mr Jim Madden MP Mr Brent Mickelberg MP Mr Pat Weir MP Mr Don Brown MP	Member for Bancroft Member for Bundaberg Member for Ipswich West Member for Buderim Member for Condamine Member for Capalaba (substitute)
	Dr Jacqueline Dewar Ms Natasha Mitchenson Mr Mark Binns	Committee Secretary Assistant Committee Secretary Inquiry Secretary
Apologies:	Ms Jess Pugh MP	Member for Mount Ommaney

1 Agenda

The meeting commenced at 9.30am.

2 Welcome and apologies

The committee noted that Ms Jess Pugh MP was an apology for the meeting and that Mr Don Brown MP would be the substitute member.

3 Member's Estimates Information Manual

The committee noted the Member's Estimates Information Manual. Members asked for hard copies of the manual to be provided as part of their estimates briefing pack.

4 Appropriation Bill 2018 - hearing dates

The committee noted the estimates hearing dates for portfolio committees. The State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee will conduct its estimates

hearing on Wednesday 25 July 2018

4.1 Background information

The committee noted preliminary background information, including departmental organisational charts, list of Schedule 7 entities and estimates hearing procedures.

The committee noted that the secretariat would provide members with the most current version of these organisational charts and Schedule 7 entities before estimates.

4.2 Inquiry timetable

The committee resolved to adopt the draft inquiry timetable for estimates.

Moved: Mr Whiting, Seconded: Mr Weir

4.3 Public hearing timetable

The committee discussed the draft public hearing timetable for estimates.

The committee resolved to adopt the draft hearing timetable as amended.

Moved: Mr Whiting, Seconded: Mr Weir

4.4 Attendance of non-committee members

In accordance with Standing Order 181(e) the committee resolved to grant leave to non-committee members who make a written request to attend the estimates hearing and ask questions.

Moved: Mr Madden, Seconded: Mr Batt

4.5 Ministers' use of ancillary materials

The committee resolved not to allow Ministers to use ancillary materials or props during the hearing and agreed that Ministers should provide the committee with any supplementary material in written form.

Moved: Mr Brown, Seconded: Mr Mickelberg

5 Ministers' opening statements

The committee resolved that each Minister may make one opening statement of no more than 5 minutes at the beginning of the Minister's examination.

Moved: Mr Whiting, Seconded: Mr Weir

6 Conduct of hearing

Members discussed the conduct of the hearing. In particular, that questions would be split into 15 minute intervals, alternating between government members and opposition members, and that committee members would have priority in asking questions.

7 Other Business

8 Next meeting

The committee noted that their next estimates meeting would be at 8:30am on Wednesday 25 July 2018 in Room A35 (the pre-hearing meeting).

Close The meeting closed at 9.57am.

Certified correct on the twenty-fifth day of July 2018

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'C. Whiting'.

Chris Whiting MP
CHAIR



Queensland Parliament – Committees

State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee

Estimates Meeting No. 2

Via Teleconference

Tuesday, 10 July 2018

Present:	Mr Chris Whiting MP	Member for Bancroft
	Mr David Batt MP	Member for Bundaberg
	Mr Jim Madden MP	Member for Ipswich West
	Mr Brent Mickelberg MP	Member for Buderim
	Ms Jess Pugh MP	Member for Mount Ommaney
	Mr Pat Weir MP	Member for Condamine
	Dr Jacqueline Dewar	Committee Secretary
	Ms Natasha Mitchenson	Assistant Committee Secretary

Apologies: Nil

1 Agenda

2 Welcome and apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 2:00pm

3 Estimates hearing program

The committee discussed the draft estimates hearing program which provided specific timings for portfolio areas. The Chair advised the committee that the changes were administrative and designed to provide more precise attendance times for relevant heads of government owned corporations (GOC) and departmental officers.

Concerns were raised regarding the rigidity of the proposed times in the hearing program. The Chair noted that he would be flexible in his approach to chairing the estimates hearing and that there was flexibility in the times proposed in the program.

The committee secretary advised that questions can be taken on notice by the relevant Minister if the responsible officer/head of GOC is not present when the question is asked. The committee secretary also advised committee members that questions to a Minister cannot be ruled out of order because they are asked outside of the timing set down for a specific portfolio area.

The committee resolved to adopt and publish the estimates hearing program and notify the relevant Minister and stakeholders.

Moved: Mr Whiting

Seconded: Mr Madden

4 Other Business

Nil

5 Next Estimates Meeting

The committee noted the next estimates meeting would be at 8.30am on Wednesday 25 July 2018 (Estimates pre-hearing meeting) in Room 35.A.

Close

The meeting closed at 2.07pm.

Certified correct on the twenty-fifth day of July 2018

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'C. Whiting'.

CHRIS WHITING MP
Chair



Queensland Parliament – Committees

State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee

Estimates Meeting No. 3

Queensland Parliament, Room A. 35

Wednesday, 25 July 2018, 8.30am

Present:	Mr Chris Whiting MP	Member for Bancroft
	Mr David Batt MP	Member for Bundaberg
	Mr Jim Madden MP	Member for Ipswich West
	Mr Brent Mickelberg MP	Member for Buderim
	Ms Jess Pugh MP	Member for Mount Ommaney
	Mr Pat Weir MP	Member for Condamine
	Dr Jacqueline Dewar	Committee Secretary
	Ms Natasha Mitchenson	Assistant Committee Secretary

Apologies: Nil

1 Agenda

2 Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:30am

3 Minutes

The committee resolved to confirm the minutes of the following meetings as true and accurate records of those meetings:

- Meeting No. 1 - 11 June 2018
- Meeting No. 2 - 10 July 2018

Moved: Mr Whiting

Seconded: Mr Weir

4 Correspondence

The committee resolved that the inward correspondence be accepted and the outward correspondence be endorsed.

Moved: Ms Pugh

Seconded: Mr Mickelberg

4.1 Correspondence regarding Standing Order 181(e) – Members seeking leave to attend the public estimates hearing

The committee noted the following correspondence from Members seeking leave to attend the public estimates hearing:

- (i) Deb Frecklington MP, Leader of the Opposition (seeking leave for Deb Frecklington MP, Tim Mander MP, Jarrod Bleijie MP, Andrew Powell MP, Dale Last MP, Michael Hart MP and Tony Perrett MP)
- (ii) Sandy Bolton MP, Member for Noosa
- (iii) Stephen Andrew MP, Member for Mirani
- (iv) Michael Berkman MP, Member for Maiwar
- (v) Deb Frecklington MP, Leader of the Opposition (seeking leave for John-Paul Langbroek MP)

5 Background material

The committee noted that an updated list of schedule 7 entities and departmental organisational charts were provided to members electronically on 2 July 2018 and hard copies were provided to committee members at the meeting.

6 Publication of answers to pre-hearing questions on notice

The committee noted that answers to the committees' pre-hearing questions on notice are deemed to be authorised for publication unless the committee resolves otherwise. The committee noted that answers were provided electronically to committee members on Tuesday 24 July 2018.

The Committee Secretary advised the committee that the answers would be published on the committee's website at the commencement of the hearing (9.00am, Wednesday 25 July 2018) in accordance with Standing Order 182.

6.1 Correction of answer to pre-hearing question on notice

The committee noted correspondence from the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning in regard to a correction to an answer to pre-hearing question on notice No. 8.

The committee discussed the publication of the correspondence and the original answer provided.

The committee resolved to:

- (i) accept the correspondence from the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning to correct an error in the answer to pre-hearing question on notice no. 8; and
- (ii) publish the letter and corrected answer to question no. 8 as correspondence.

Moved: Mr Whiting

Seconded: Mr Weir

7 Estimates hearing procedure

The committee noted the following procedural advice for the estimates hearing:

- (i) Members may ask the Minister, Director-General or Schedule 7 Chief Executive Officers direct questions.
- (ii) Witnesses (including the Minister) and visiting members may only table documents with leave of the committee. The document should be examined before leave is granted. Tabled documents are deemed authorised for publication unless the committee resolves otherwise.
- (iii) Questions can only be taken on notice by the Minister.
- (iv) Witnesses (including the Minister) and Members asking questions with leave may only table documents with leave of the committee. Tabled documents are deemed authorised for publication unless the committee resolves otherwise.
- (v) Visiting members do not constitute quorum. Quorum must be maintained at all times.

8 Other Business

Nil

9 Next meeting

The committee noted the next estimates meeting would be at 10.30am on Tuesday 14 August 2018 via teleconference to consider the draft estimates report.

Close The meeting closed at 8.46am.

Certified correct on the fourteenth day of August 2018



CHRIS WHITING MP
Chair

MINUTES



Queensland Parliament – Committees

State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee

Estimates Meeting No. 4

Queensland Parliament, Room A.35

Wednesday 25 July 2018

Present:	Mr Chris Whiting MP	Member for Bancroft
	Mr David Batt MP	Member for Bundaberg
	Mr Jim Madden MP	Member for Ipswich West
	Mr Brent Mickelberg MP	Member for Buderim
	Ms Jess Pugh MP	Member for Mount Ommaney
	Mr Pat Weir MP	Member for Condamine
	Dr Jacqueline Dewar	Committee Secretary
	Ms Natasha Mitchenson	Assistant Committee Secretary
	Mr Neil Laurie	The Clerk of the Parliament
	Ms Bernice Watson	First Clerk Assistant (Committees)
Apologies:	Nil	

The Chair opened the meeting at 10.10am

Motion to dissent from the Chair's ruling

The committee discussed the motion put by Mr Mickelberg, Member for Buderim, to dissent for the Chair's ruling that the question asked by Mr Perrett, Member for Gympie, in relation to the vegetation management laws should not be put to the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries, as this area of inquiry was outside the Minister's portfolio responsibility.

The committee took advice from The Clerk of the Parliament.

On the Chair's casting vote the motion to dissent to the Chair's ruling was not carried.

Aye	Noes
Mr Whiting	Mr Weir
Mr Madden	Mr Batt
Ms Pugh	Mr Mickelberg

Close The meeting closed at 10.16am.

Certified correct on the fourteenth day of August 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C. Whiting". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

CHRIS WHITING MP
Chair



Queensland Parliament – Committees

State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee

Estimates Meeting No. 5

Queensland Parliament, Room A.35

Wednesday 25 July 2018

Present:	Mr Chris Whiting MP	Member for Bancroft
	Mr David Batt MP	Member for Bundaberg
	Mr Jim Madden MP	Member for Ipswich West
	Mr Brent Mickelberg MP	Member for Buderim
	Dr Jacqueline Dewar	Committee Secretary
Apologies:	Ms Jess Pugh MP	Member for Mount Ommaney
	Mr Pat Weir MP	Member for Condamine

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:16pm

Consideration of correspondence provided by Mr Dale Last, the Member for Burdekin

The committee discussed correspondence provided by Mr Dale Last, the Member for Burdekin from a landholder, Ms Butler, in regard to the impact of recent changes to the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

The committee noted that Minister Lynham had, during the hearing, offered to address the concerns of Ms Butler, if the correspondence was provided directly to the Minister's office.

The committee resolved to provide the correspondence from Ms Butler to Minister Lynham for his consideration and response.

Moved: Mr Whiting Seconded: Mr Batt

Close The meeting closed at 7:17pm.

Certified correct on the fourteenth day of August 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C. Whiting". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "C" and "W".

CHRIS WHITING MP
Chair



Queensland Parliament – Committees

State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee

Estimates Meeting No. 6

via teleconference

Tuesday, 14 August 2018

Present:	Mr Chris Whiting MP Mr David Batt MP Mr Brent Mickelberg MP Mr Lachlan Millar MP Mr Duncan Pegg MP Ms Jess Pugh MP Dr Jacqueline Dewar Ms Natasha Mitchenson Mr Gregory Connolly	Member for Bancroft Member for Bundaberg Member for Buderim Member for Gregory (substitute) Member for Stretton (substitute) Member for Mount Ommaney Committee Secretary Assistant Committee Secretary Committee Support Officer
Apologies:	Mr Jim Madden MP Mr Pat Weir MP	Member for Ipswich West Member for Condamine

1 Agenda

The meeting commenced at 10.30am.

2 Welcome and apologies

The committee noted that Mr Jim Madden MP and Mr Pat Weir MP were apologies for the meeting and that their substitutions would be addressed as part of the relevant correspondence at Item 5.

The committee resolved that Mr Brent Mickelberg MP would act as the Deputy Chair in the absence of Mr Pat Weir MP.

Moved: Mr Batt, Seconded: Mr Pegg

3 Minutes

The committee resolved that the minutes of the following meetings be confirmed as a true and accurate record of those meetings:

- Meeting No. 3 - 25 July 2018 (8.30am)
- Meeting No. 4 - 25 July 2018 (10.10am)
- Meeting No. 5 - 25 July 2018 (7.16pm)

Moved: Mr Whiting, Seconded: Mr Mickelberg

4 Correspondence

The committee resolved that the inward correspondence as noted in the correspondence register be accepted and the outward correspondence be endorsed.

Moved: Ms Pugh, Seconded: Mr Batt

4.1 Correspondence from the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning

The committee resolved to authorise for publication correspondence from the Hon. Cameron Dick MP, Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, dated 1 August 2018, providing additional information about Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 8 (complaints made to the department).

Moved: Mr Whiting, Seconded: Mr Mickelberg

4.2 Correspondence from Mr Michael Hart MP, Member for Burleigh

The committee resolved to authorise for publication correspondence from Mr Michael Hart MP, dated 1 August 2018, regarding the response provided to his question taken on notice at the committee's estimates hearing on 25 July 2018.

The committee resolved that the Committee Chair respond to Mr Michael Hart MP on behalf of the committee.

Moved: Mr Whiting, Seconded: Mr Mickelberg

4.3 Correspondence from Minister Furner MP regarding clarification of the department's SDS and FTE numbers

The committee resolved to authorise for publication, subject to personal contact details being redacted, correspondence from Minister Furner MP, dated 6 August 2018, regarding issues raised at the estimates hearing held on 25 July 2018 in relation to clarification of the department's SDS and FTE numbers.

Moved: Ms Pugh, Seconded: Mr Batt

4 Medical certificate - Mr Marc Levy, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges

The committee resolved to authorise for publication, subject to personal details being redacted, the medical certificate provided by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on behalf of Mr Marc Levy, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges on 1 August 2018, in relation to Mr Levy's absence from the estimates hearing on 25 July 2018.

Moved: Mr Whiting, Seconded: Mr Millar

5 Substitution of Committee Members

The committee noted correspondence from the Leader of the House advising the absence of Mr Jim Madden MP, Member for Ipswich West between Tuesday 7 August 2018 and Sunday 19 August 2018 (inclusive) and the substitution with Mr Duncan Pegg MP, Member for Stretton.

The committee noted correspondence from the Leader of the Opposition advising the absence of Mr Pat Weir MP, Member for Condamine for Tuesday 14 August 2018 and the substitution with Mr Lachlan Millar MP, Member for Gregory.

Moved: Mr Whiting, Seconded: Mr Mickelberg

6 Answers to Question on Notice

The committee resolved to authorise for publication the answer to the question taken on notice by Minister Lynham during the estimates hearing on 25 July 2018.

Moved _____ Seconded _____

7 Transcript corrections - DSDMIP

The committee resolved to accept the corrections to the estimates hearing transcript requested by Ms Rachel Hunter, Director-General, Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, in correspondence dated 27 July 2018.

Moved: Mr Whiting, Seconded: Mr Batt

8 Transcript corrections - DAF

The committee resolved to accept the corrections to the estimates hearing transcript requested by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, in correspondence dated 1 August 2018.

Moved: Ms Pugh, Seconded: Mr Mickelberg

9 Transcript corrections - DNRME

The committee resolved to accept the corrections to the estimates hearing transcript requested by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, in correspondence dated 1 August 2018.

Moved: Ms Pugh, Seconded: Mr Millar

10 Report No. 13 - Examination of 2018-19 Budget Estimates

The committee considered the Chair's draft report on the 2018-19 Budget Estimates. The Deputy Chair advised that the non-government members would make a statement of reservation to the report.

The committee resolved to adopt committee Report No. 13 - 2018-19 Budget Estimates as a report of the committee, subject to the committee secretary making edits to the report to enhance clarity or rectify typographical errors.

Moved: Mr Whiting, Seconded: Ms Pugh

11 Volume of Additional Information

The committee resolved to table with the report the volume of additional information containing:

- minutes of meetings
- correspondence
- pre-hearing questions on notice and answers
- answers to question taken on notice after the hearing, and
- documents tabled at the hearing.

Moved: Mr Pegg, Seconded: Mr Batt

12 Statements of reservation or dissenting reports

Committee members noted that statements of reservation or dissenting reports are to be provided to the committee secretary by 10.00am Thursday 16 August 2018.

13 Minutes of estimates meeting no. 6

The committee resolved to authorise the Chair and Deputy Chair to confirm the minutes of the committee's estimates meeting No.6 to facilitate inclusion in the committee's volume of additional information to be tabled. The committee noted that under Standing Order 212(4) the Chair or committee secretary shall sign the minutes of proceedings after the minutes have been confirmed.

Moved: Mr Whiting, Seconded: Mr Mickelberg

14 Other Business

Nil

Close The meeting closed at 10.41am.

Certified correct on the sixteenth day of August 2018

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "C. Whiting".

Chris Whiting MP
Chair

**Questions on notice and responses – *Minister for
Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries***

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 1

Asked on 2 July 2018

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

In reference to page 3 of the SDS, "Departmental Overview" and the importance of implementing the Agriculture and Food Research, Development and Extension 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan, can the Minister outline the funding allocated to implement this in 2018/19?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

I am pleased to advise that on 24 May 2018, while visiting Doug Lee's property in Proserpine, one of Queensland's 4,400 sugarcane-growing families, I launched the Agriculture and Food Research, Development and Extension 10- Year Roadmap and Action Plan.

This Roadmap and Action Plan is a forward looking, whole-of-Government plan for the State's agriculture and food research, development and extension (RD&E) system.

As we all know, Queensland's agriculture and food industries are a key strength of our economy. Our state has an extremely globally-competitive agriculture and food sector. This is due to a number of factors, including our close proximity to rapidly growing markets, diverse climate and world-leading expertise in tropical and sub-tropical RD&E.

To make sure we maximise these opportunities, we have identified 14 key actions based around three strategies. These actions were the result of extensive consultation that Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) staff undertook with community members, industry representatives, the research sector and other government agencies. I would like to thank all who participated in this process.

As mentioned, this is a whole-of-Government Roadmap under the Advance Queensland banner. A number of departments were involved and consulted during its development. An outcome of this government-wide consultation is that several agencies have responsibilities under the Roadmap for actions relevant to their Department.

To facilitate this coordination, DAF last year established an inter-departmental committee (IDC). It comprises representatives from key agencies involved in agriculture and food research, development and extension. One of the key functions

of the IDC is to oversee the implementation of the Roadmap. The IDC will shortly reconvene to discuss and develop implementation plans.

One of the key objectives of the IDC will be to prepare an implementation plan for every action identified in the Roadmap. This will also include budgets. As stated, several agencies have responsibilities under the Roadmap and it will be their determination as to the extent of resources allocated to implement their actions.

I can briefly mention that DAF has in place several programs to implement a number of actions to support the Roadmap. This includes:

- the development of the DAF RD&E Strategic Plan for agriculture - informing and directing the Government's investment of over \$76 million through DAF
- the DAF Drought and Climate Adaptation Program - a \$21 million investment over 6 years
- the Sustainable Fishing Strategy 2017-2027 - for which we have allocated \$7.8 million this year to help implement the Strategy
- the Growing Queensland's Food Exports Program - a grant program to help our producers access new markets, for which we have allocated \$1.3 million for implementation
- enhancing rural skills, which falls under our wider Rural Jobs and Skills Alliance program, and for which we have allocated a further \$1 million this year
- undertaking critical R&D into pulse storage to help our growers meet the expanding pulses industry. DAF has allocated \$500 000 this year for this critical work
- investing \$390 000 this year to address the fruit fly problem in Bundaberg to help our growers increase their market access.

These programs continue the Palaszczuk Government's support of this valuable sector. Further programs and initiatives will be identified and detailed as the Roadmap is implemented. I would be happy to provide updates to the Committee on the progress of the Roadmap implementation.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 2

Asked on 2 July 2018

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

In reference to page 34 of the SDS can the Minister outline which campuses, programs and staff classification will be cut in relation to the decrease in overall staff numbers in the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges (QATC) manages its staff numbers relative to revenue forecasts and other operational requirements. QATC's budgeted FTEs for 2018-19 of 107 is similar to its forecast actual FTE of 108 for 2017-18. One employee has accepted a severance payment.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 3

Asked on 2 July 2018

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

In reference to page 17 of the SDS that outlines the reduction in Biosecurity Queensland staff, can the Minister outline where (location) and from which programs these staff will be lost?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

In 2015, the Palaszczuk Government delivered on its election commitment to commission an independent review of the biosecurity system in Queensland with a view to restoring the State's biosecurity response capability to world's best practice.

This commitment was in response to the serious erosion of Biosecurity Queensland's capacity to respond to disease and pest outbreaks when the previous government slashed Biosecurity Queensland staffing by 26 per cent. We now have more biosecurity staff than when we came into government.

The final report delivered in April 2016 by the independent panel concluded that there was a prevailing need to fix Queensland's biosecurity system by building its capacity and capability. In response to the findings, the Palaszczuk Government allocated an additional \$10.8 million over 4 years to begin addressing the priority issues.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 4

Asked on 2 July 2018

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

In reference to page 18 of the SDS that outlines budgeted financial statements, can the Minister explain the planned reduction in expenditure post 2018-19 in Panama disease TR4, White Spot Disease (WSD) and pest and weed initiatives?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

Funding has been provided to continue the Panama TR4 Program in its current format until December 2018.

An independent consultant has been commissioned to review the program and to provide recommendations on a fair and realistic model for the management of the disease beyond December 2018. This will inform the funding requirements and program scope going forward from this point.

There was significant funding required in 2016-17 with the detection of white spot syndrome virus, the causative agent for white spot disease (WSD). Expenditure centred on significant and comprehensive eradication and containment activities followed by destruction and disposal methodologies.

The WSD Program is now in a phase focussed on surveillance, ensuring movement restrictions are maintained to prevent any spread of the disease, and community and stakeholder engagement. The budget required to support the program in this phase is less than the initial response allocation.

Ongoing funding for pest and weed initiatives is primarily attributed to the finalisation of current limited life funding arrangements relating to the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative (QFPI), and eradication, management and research programs for which funding arrangements are yet to be confirmed. These initiatives are funded from a range of sources and require collaboration between many partners including local, state and federal governments, industry and research bodies.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 5

Asked on 2 July 2018

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

In reference to page 26 of the SDS that covers "Major variations between 2017-18 Budget and 2017-18 Estimated Actual", can the Minister explain why department land in the highly valued and sought after Redland City Council region can be decreasing in value and the Government's plans with this land asset?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The former Redlands Poultry Facility was closed in 2012 due to changes in animal welfare legislation which impacted research operations conducted at the facility.

As part of the disposal process a number of subdivisions and rezoning of the site was undertaken. Part of the site was not able to be converted to freehold tenure which impacted on the size of the freehold parcel that was disposed through Private Treaty to Redlands Regional Council.

The \$28.3 million "Fair Value" valuation was determined as part of the DAF comprehensive valuation of assets undertaken in 2016. This comprehensive valuation was undertaken in accordance with Queensland Treasury Non-Current Asset Accounting Policies.

In 2017, a separate independent market valuation was undertaken based on the existing zoning and also included the impact of subdivisions necessary for disposal. This valuation was undertaken in accordance with Government Land Policies guidelines relating to property disposals.

The 2017 valuation process included consideration of the land tenure as a reserve and taking into account the forthcoming tenure conversion to freehold and the native flora and fauna issues.

The differing considerations and approaches in valuation methodologies have resulted in the recording of the \$11.7 million decrement to the book value of this property.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 6

Asked on 2 July 2018

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

In reference to page 7 of the SDS on the role of Biosecurity Queensland, can the Minister specifically outline what funding and staff are being allocated in 2018-19 to deal directly with the growing issues around pasture dieback?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

I am pleased to announce that in 2018-19, DAF has allocated \$200,000 to further investigate causes of pasture dieback in Queensland. These funds will complement Meat and Livestock Australia's (MLA) work using a number of private research organisations and universities to investigate potential causes and solutions.

In 2018-19, DAF will also appoint a new Pasture Agronomist to work on pasture dieback alongside an existing experienced Pasture Agronomist. These Agronomists will link with a range of DAF and Queensland Government specialists including: Senior Extension Officers, Pasture Scientists, Plant Pathologist, Entomologist, Biometrician, Laboratory Technicians, Research Technical Officers, Farm Hands, Remote Sensing and Climate Scientists and Communication Officers.

DAF scientists will be conducting a replicated research trial on its Brian Pastures Beef Research Facility near Gayndah, where pasture dieback has occurred in cultivated paddocks of Bisset creeping bluegrass.

The trial on Brian Pastures will evaluate techniques that might halt or retract the condition during the early stages, when affected pasture is showing reddening or yellowing symptoms, and techniques that restore pasture that has fully succumbed to the condition. The Wide Bay region is an area that has shown increased incidence of dieback. As such, the research facility is a highly suitable place for scientific trials and producer demonstration.

Last month, a Field Day was held at Brian Pastures that attracted over 200 participants who were mostly producers. An overview of what is known about pasture dieback across the State, MLA's progress on determining the causal agent(s) triggering dieback and DAF's experimental approach at the facility was explained to the group with questions taken from the floor.

At this time there is no answer as to the cause of pasture dieback across the many climatic and environmental conditions where it is found in the State. It is a complex problem that will take time to resolve.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 7

Asked on 2 July 2018

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

In reference to page 27 item 36 "Major variations between 2017-18 Estimated Actual and the 2018-19 Budget" in the SDS, can the Minister explain why there was a decline in contracted R&D projects in 2018-19 and what projects and industries were not funded?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The decline in contracted research and development (R&D) projects between the 2017-18 Estimated Actual and the 2018-19 Budget figures relates to contracted projects where the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) receives revenue for undertaking research, development and extension activities funded by external funding bodies such as industry, universities and the private sector.

The estimates included in the 2018-19 Budget Papers are based on actual signed contracts at the time the budget was developed.

The difference reflects the normal ebb and flow of R&D project funding as some projects end and new ones start. R&D projects might last anything from one to five years. Each year, approximately one third of DAF's R&D projects turn over.

Throughout the year, DAF revises the estimated income relating to R&D projects and updates the forward estimates each quarter. It is anticipated that additional R&D projects will be contracted in the future resulting in an increase in revenue in 2018-19.

I am proud of DAF's investment in agriculture and food R&D, with its strong focus on economic growth, keeping Queenslanders healthy and protecting the environment.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 8

Asked on 2 July 2018

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

In reference to page 4 item 3 of the SDS on 2018-19 service area highlights for improving Great Barrier Reef Catchments, can the Minister outline funds allocated in 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 for:

- a) industry led Best Management Practice (BMP) programs (list each industry and amount per year)
- b) specific Reef extension staff
- c) innovative management programs
- d) education compliance measures.

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

- a) The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries does not allocate funding for industry-led BMP programs. This is allocated by the Department of Environment and Science (DES).
- b) DAF's Queensland Reef Water Quality Program funding for specific Reef extension staff is:

Reef extension program	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
	\$7,366,000	\$6,560,000	\$6,730,000

The funding for 2018-19 includes \$1.816 million of unspent 2017-18 funds that were deferred.

In addition, DAF receives funding from DES to deliver on extension-related recommendations of the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) Water Science Taskforce. The funding allocated for this support for the next two years is:

Taskforce funded extension support	2018-19	2019-20
	\$3,745,000	\$3,691,000

- c) DAF does not receive or allocate funding specifically for 'innovative management programs'. However, trialling and evaluating innovative management practices and farming systems is part of DAF's Reef Research Development and Extension projects.

Reef economics program funding	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
	\$1,930,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,350,000

d) Funding for pesticide education and compliance is:

Reef pesticide education and compliance funding	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$450,000

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 9

Asked on 2 July 2018

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

In reference to page 7 of the SDS on Biosecurity Queensland measures, can the Minister outline the following in relation to the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative:

- a) The funding per year from 2015-16 to 2018-19 (reported separately by year); and
- b) The allocation per feral pest threat allocated each year from 2015-16 to 2018-19 (reported separately by year)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

- a) The Queensland Government has allocated funding of \$17.14 million to the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative for the 2015-16 to 2018-19 period. The funding allocations in relation to the Initiative are as follows:

2015-16	\$2.115 million
2016-17	\$4.643 million
2017-18	\$2.061 million
2018-19	\$8.321 million

- b) Governance for the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative is provided by an Oversight Group. The Oversight Group champions regional participation, cooperation and collaboration in the development and implementation of projects that are funded through the initiative. Membership includes industry and local government representatives.

Funded projects regarding feral pest management often include multiple pest species and, accordingly, it is difficult to define allocations by feral pest threat.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 10

Asked on 2 July 2018

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

As the Minister responsible for agricultural industry development (SDS, page 1) can the Minister outline what funding and departmental assistance has been allocated in the budget to support farmers and industries with the introduction of the new vegetation management laws in Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The responsibility for the new vegetation management laws in Queensland sits in the portfolio of the Honourable Dr Anthony Lynham MP, Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.

DAF is assisting primary producers and the agri-business sector to enhance productivity and on-farm efficiency and applying sustainable agricultural practices, while managing the challenges of a changing climate.

Key programs that DAF is delivering to support farmers and the agricultural supply chain in this financial year include:

Drought: DAF continues to work with industry to develop a suite of measures that will assist producers to improve their climate risk management and drought preparedness strategies for the longer term through the flagship Drought and Climate Adaptation Program (DCAP). DCAP delivers research, development and extension (RD&E) projects aimed at improving the drought resilience and preparedness of primary producers, and improving their capacity to manage climate variability and adapt to climate change. DCAP projects include working with national and international climate modellers to improve seasonal forecasts and improving predictions of multi-year droughts.

Given that much of Queensland is now in its fifth year of drought, DAF is maintaining the \$20 million commitment for the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (DRAS) for 2018-19. DRAS provides freight subsidies for the transport of water and fodder to livestock and a rebate for emergency water infrastructure for animal welfare purposes to drought affected primary producers.

Research Development and Extension: In 2018-19, DAF will invest an estimated \$76 million on agricultural RD&E to build Queensland's competitive advantage, particularly in tropical and subtropical agriculture. DAF's investment in RD&E will be boosted by approximately \$35 million in external funding from major Rural Research

and Development Corporations, and the university and private sectors to undertake applied RD&E. DAF will continue to provide support through targeted program delivery and high quality RD&E services, including commencing research towards pulse storage to support the rapidly expanding chickpea and pulses industry.

In addition, DAF is funding extension support for industry-led best management practice (BMP) programs in Great Barrier Reef catchments. DAF is also allocating funding in 2018-19 to validate improved and innovative management practices being advocated for under BMP and other innovation programs.

Supply Chain Development: DAF has committed \$69,000 in the 2018-19 budget to complete a series of studies by industry experts to promote investment opportunities along the Queensland beef supply chain. A key component of the project is developing investment outlooks to inform producer and investor guides, and providing data and information about the Queensland beef supply chain, consumer trends and export market opportunities to support good investments. This will support industry development, driving new investment and ensuring industry competitiveness in the global export market.

Grants: The Palaszczuk Government has committed \$10 million over three years to deliver the Rural Economic Development (RED) Grants Program. The RED Grants Program will provide grants of up to \$250,000 for projects that will directly lead to increased employment such as business expansion, developing new markets and new capital investment. Rural and regional businesses that work in agriculture and the agriculture supply chain will be eligible to apply.

Agricultural Development: To facilitate private sector investment in Queensland agriculture and related supply chains, DAF has allocated \$390,000 in the 2018-19 budget to continue the One Stop Service (OSS). The OSS is now an integral part of DAF's approach to growing the value and productivity of Queensland's agricultural, fisheries and forestry sector. The service comprises a web information portal and a client management service, linking clients with appropriate information, agencies and support services. OSS has assisted in the development of proposals for a high pressure processing plant at Yeppoon; a vegetable sorting and packing facility at Inglewood; a beef abattoir at Moranbah; the expansion of free range egg production; and new soybean and macadamia nut production.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 11

Asked on 2 July 2018

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

In reference to SDS page 3, regarding economic development in Queensland, will the Minister outline the current value of agricultural production to the Queensland economy?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

In April 2018 the total value of Queensland's primary industry commodities, including value added in first stage processing, for 2017-18 was forecast to be \$19.45 billion. This figure is 2% less than the October 2017 estimate, however, it is 9% greater than the average of the past five years.

The forecast gross farm gate value for Queensland primary industry commodities is \$15.33 billion. This is 2% less than the October 2017 estimate, but 9% greater than the average for the past five years.

The 2017-18 forecast value added in first stage processing, such as dairy processing, sawmilling or cotton ginning, is \$4.11 billion.

Exports continue to grow and were valued at \$8.51 billion in 2016-17.

In farm gate value terms, livestock and livestock products are projected to be worth \$6.84 billion; fruit, nuts and vegetables worth \$3 billion; lifestyle horticulture worth \$1.39 billion; other field crops worth \$2.14 billion; grains worth \$1.25 billion; commercial fishing worth \$377 million; and forestry worth \$270 million.

In 2016-17 it was estimated there were just over 307,000 people employed across the agriculture and food supply chain. This accounts for 13% of all working Queenslanders.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 12

Asked on 2 July 2018

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 7 and 10, regarding mitigation of the risk and impacts of animal and plant pests and diseases, can the Minister outline what steps the Palaszczuk Government has taken to improve biosecurity within Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

In 2015, the Palaszczuk Government commissioned an independent review of the Queensland Biosecurity system to determine what future capability was required to meet the increasing number, scale and scope of exotic biosecurity pests and diseases.

The Government responded to the findings of the review by allocating an additional \$10.8 million over the four years 2016 to 2020 to address the highest priorities in the review and boost Queensland's biosecurity response capability. In addition to this funding, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is contributing an additional \$19.4 million over the four year period, bringing the total commitment of the Palaszczuk Government to implementing the review recommendations to \$30.2 million.

Key outcomes include:

- The *Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2018-2023* was released on 27 March 2018. This strategy was co-developed by the Queensland Government, peak industry organisations and the community, to strengthen Queensland's 'shared responsibility' approach to managing biosecurity risks.

The Strategy has established six themes for action: collaborative governance and leadership; every Queenslanders plays their part; empowered to act; bright ideas and better ways; valuing and building on our investments; and better intelligence systems.

- An enhanced Biosecurity Information Management System has been developed, with the system reaching full operational implementation during 2017. The system provides a Statewide platform which hosts resources and tools to support day to day and emergency response operations.
- Emergency response capability has been enhanced under the Biosecurity Preparedness and Response Project which has established a dedicated State Control Centre in Brisbane; formed a Biosecurity Emergency Response Group

comprising specialty trained personnel; commenced development of an emergency response network that will contribute to the efficient running of future emergency responses; and participated in operational responses in other jurisdictions to share expertise.

- A cross-border biosecurity emergency response exercise, Operation Border Bridge, was conducted in partnership with New South Wales in early 2018. The exercise was designed to test the ability of multiple agencies across jurisdictions to respond to a large-scale biosecurity incursion. The after-action review will be implemented to ensure that findings inform future capability needs.
- Under the Better Partnerships project, on 12 June 2018 the Palaszczuk Government announced \$375,000 funding for each of North Queensland Dry Tropics, who will update the Regional Pest Management Strategy; and the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation, who will develop a coordinated approach to managing invasive plants and animals. These projects will be used to develop delivery frameworks that will be available to other Natural Resource Management groups to achieve regionally based partnership projects in the future.
- Other projects include the Marine Pest Preparedness Project and the Surveillance and Diagnostics Project which are both well underway and will deliver key system improvements by the end of the Program in June 2020.
- A pilot investment prioritisation model has been developed as a tool to assess return on investment within the Queensland biosecurity system.
- A Biosecurity Liaison Officer has been appointed to continue to strengthen the relationships with key stakeholder bodies through the development of collaborative projects with Biosecurity Queensland, the Local Government Association of Queensland, Queensland Farmers' Federation and AgForce.

The projects are being closely monitored by an independent Capability Program Board to ensure that all projects align with Departmental and Government priorities; recognise and build on linkages with other projects and products to fully realise program benefits; and remain on track to deliver on the review objectives.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 13

Asked on 2 July 2018

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 3 regarding capitalising on rural opportunities in Queensland, will the Minister outline what information has been made available for international investors in agriculture to highlight the positives of investing in Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

Agribusiness is big business in Queensland and investment opportunities abound.

The forecast value of our primary industries for 2017-18 is expected to be \$19.45 billion, a nine per cent increase over the five year average. These forecasts are based on the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) unique *AgTrends* publication which provides a twice-yearly update on the outlook for food and agriculture production in the State.

In March 2018, the Palaszczuk Government published *Queensland Agriculture Snapshot 2018*, which provides anyone seriously interested in the sector, including potential investors, with considerable detail on the sector. The *Snapshot* particularly highlights the sector's diversity and innovativeness.

For a long time, our producers have consistently produced quality, premium products through sustainable production practices.

Additional investment in Queensland agriculture and food supply chains will support future growth and build business capacity to meet the increasing global demands for our world class food and fibre products. Queensland is well placed to meet these demands.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to attracting new investment and supporting business innovation across the food and agriculture sectors. Investment and innovation are essential seeds for future agricultural growth.

The Palaszczuk Government has introduced a number of strategic initiatives and investment attraction programs to encourage international investment to the State.

DAF is working closely with Trade and Investment Queensland (TIQ) and with Government and industry stakeholders to boost trade and investment across the food and agriculture sectors.

TIQ has an overseas network of Trade and Investment Offices in 12 countries and a network of regional advisors in key regional centres around Queensland to provide information to international investors, and to help them explore investment opportunities in Queensland. TIQ has also developed an investment prospectus to assist international investors, which discusses Queensland agribusiness and aquaculture investment opportunities.

A key ingredient in the investment attraction process is to provide potential international investors with tailored packages of information and meetings, to ensure they receive the optimal picture of the commercial investment opportunities that Queensland's agriculture sector has to offer. During 2017-18, DAF hosted and supported 35 international delegations that visited rural and regional Queensland to explore agribusiness trade and investment opportunities.

In November 2017, DAF attended the Northern Australian Investment Forum in Cairns, which attracted over 200 investor groups across the agriculture, resources and energy, and tourism sectors, with more than half of these delegates focused on agriculture.

DAF representatives met with nine international delegations at the Forum and provided information on specific investment related issues, as well as fielding numerous ad hoc enquiries. Investor interest in agriculture ranged from abattoirs, biofuels and cotton, to agro-chemicals, animal nutrition, goats to Taiwan, value - added food products from sugar cane and indigenous development opportunities.

Agricultural investors are attracted to Queensland as the State offers a clean environment, climatic diversity and an abundance of agricultural land, producing high quality, fresh, clean and sustainably produced meat, seafood, fruit and vegetables for export overseas. Queensland's proximity to the growing middle classes of the Asia-Pacific region is also of interest to potential investors.

Queensland is at the centre of Australia's beef, horticulture and sugar industries and produces a significant portion of Australia's cotton crop. The State's subtropical and tropical climate provides ideal conditions to produce strong yields and high-quality fruit and vegetables all year-round.

Queensland producers have ready access to world-class research facilities and expertise to help boost business productivity. The State's robust and reliable biosecurity and food safety frameworks make us a highly-attractive investment destination.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 14

Asked on 2 July 2018

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

In reference to SDS page 4 (delivering agricultural development outcomes), can the Minister detail the Queensland Government's strategy regarding Research, Development and Extension and its role in rural and regional development in Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

Queensland's agriculture and food industries have long been supported by our world-leading research, development and extension (RD&E).

Queensland is well known for its expertise in tropical and sub-tropical RD&E, having over 30 state-owned or managed research facilities and field sites spread across the State, many of which are in regional locations.

In addition, we have eight universities with an active role in agriculture and food RD&E. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) has established strong links with many of these universities. In particular, DAF has established an alliance with the University of Queensland (UQ), forming the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI). This alliance sees DAF providing over \$7 million per year to QAAFI to undertake RD&E across the agriculture and food sector, as well as attracting younger people to a career in agriculture RD&E. In 2017, UQ was ranked number five in the field of agriculture world-wide.

The solid relationship with UQ is one of the many collaborations DAF has with university, private sector and government RD&E providers. These ventures spread right across the State. They help address local problems, ensuring the viability of local industries and communities. Outcomes are also applied globally, maximising investment and reinforcing our place as a leader in tropical and sub-tropical RD&E.

RD&E in the agriculture and food sector provides many benefits.

For consumers, RD&E has supported the provision of high quality, safe food which remains affordable and available year round. Food is grown in an environmentally and ethically sound manner.

For producers, RD&E has delivered new technologies, new tools and new varieties. It has helped them remain viable, to expand and to support their families and local communities.

Lastly, for the Queensland economy, RD&E supported increased exports and growth in regional jobs.

Queensland's vast geography often presents significant barriers in extending our RD&E. An example of how this barrier has been overcome for Queensland's \$9 billion beef industry is the establishment of the FutureBeef network by DAF and its partners. FutureBeef utilises an extensive on-line delivery system to provide producers with up-to-date information, links to the latest scientific discoveries and provides extensive detail on a range of production topics. Since its launch in 2012 it has reached over 1 million website hits and now has hundreds of pages of information. The Queensland Government and its partners, the Northern Territory and Western Australian Governments and Meat and Livestock Australia, recognise the significance of this extension delivery program and have recently committed a further \$2.38 million to renew the program for a further three years.

Effective and targeted RD&E will steer the next wave of productivity growth in Queensland. We will, of course, need to do this in partnership with our industries, universities and other research providers. To help achieve this, DAF has led the development of the whole-of-government Agriculture and Food Research, Development and Extension 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan. I launched this Roadmap in May this year while visiting one of the State's 4,400 sugarcane growing families in Proserpine. The Roadmap consists of 14 actions aligned to three key strategies. It will provide the direction we need to ensure RD&E is undertaken in a strategic manner, focused on areas that will provide maximum regional and economic outcomes for the State.

One of the key actions in the Roadmap is for DAF to develop its own RD&E Strategic Plan. This plan will help guide the strategic and targeted investment, currently more than \$76 million of Queensland Government funds, for the delivery of agriculture and food RD&E within DAF. Together with the Roadmap, the plan will help DAF and the Government support our growers and industries to develop and become more profitable and sustainable, to support the growth of our industries and will help underpin our vibrant and viable regional and rural communities by developing and supporting profitable farmers and industries.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 15

Asked on 2 July 2018

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 43 of the SDS on the provision of assistance to primary producers, small businesses and other elements of the State's economy, will the Minister outline the assistance that the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority has provided through the Primary Industries Productivity Enhancement Scheme?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Primary Industry Productivity Enhancement Scheme (PIPES) is a proactive loan scheme administered by the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA). It comprises:

- the First Start program which provides loans up to \$2 million to support new entrants to establish their first viable primary production or wild catch fishing enterprise; and
- the Sustainability program which provides loans up to \$1.3 million to enable existing primary producers and wild catch fishers to increase the productivity and viability of their existing enterprise.

First Start and Sustainability Loans are available at concessional interest rates for loan terms of up to 20 years with up to five years of interest-only payments also available throughout the term of the loan. The loans attract no fees or charges and non-competitive joint lending with commercial banks is encouraged.

At 30 June 2018, 228 applications totalling \$99.8 million had been approved under PIPES in 2017-18.

The loans were primarily taken up by beef producers, representing 58 per cent of total approvals, followed by sugarcane growers with 17 per cent and grain and livestock producers with 6 per cent.

The highest number of loan approvals in 2017-18 occurred in the Mackay Regional Council area, followed by the North Burnett, Maranoa, Western Downs, South Burnett, Bundaberg and Toowoomba Regional Council areas.

The average age of First Start clients approved in 2017-18 was 36 years and for Sustainability clients was 50 years.

The impact of drought continued to be felt across many parts of Queensland during much of 2017-18. QRIDA remained focused on increasing producer awareness of the Sustainability program to assist with drought preparation and mitigation activities.

Over 1,650 kilometres of predator exclusion fencing to improve the viability of grazing enterprises was financed through sustainability loans during 2016-17 and 2017-18.

The total PIPES loan portfolio as at 30 June 2018 was almost \$470 million, a 13.6 per cent increase on the 30 June 2017 portfolio balance. More than 1,370 Queensland primary producers are currently accessing the scheme.

Loan eligibility criteria include requirements that applicants demonstrate a financial need for concessional interest rate finance, can provide adequate security and demonstrate sound prospects for long-term commercial viability.

The Palaszczuk Government has endorsed QRIDA to provide net loan approvals of up to \$100 million under PIPES in 2018-19 to continue to support new farmers and improve the productivity of Queensland agriculture.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 16

Asked on 2 July 2018

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

In reference to SDS page 7 and significant biosecurity responses, will the Minister outline the current biosecurity risks facing Queensland and the Government's responses?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The suitability of Queensland's climate for many pests and diseases, its proximity to northern neighbours and extensive coastline means it will continue to be the frontline state for dealing with biosecurity threats.

The *Queensland Biosecurity Strategy: Our Next Five Years 2018-2023* (the Strategy) was released on 27 March 2018 and will guide the collective efforts across all Queensland's biosecurity stakeholders. The Strategy, co-developed with our Biosecurity partners, focuses on six themes which we all agree are critical to mitigating and managing our biosecurity risks.

The six themes are:

1. Collaborative governance and leadership
2. Every Queenslanders plays a part
3. Empowered to act
4. Bright ideas and better ways
5. Valuing and building on our investments
6. Better intelligence systems.

In the 2017–18 financial year there were no new biosecurity emergency responses initiated. During this period however DAF did demonstrate its capacity to meet all service requirements by effectively responding to 47 biosecurity incidents:

- 26 related to animal biosecurity
- 10 related to plant biosecurity
- 11 related to invasive plants and animals.

Under the national Project Agreement for Pest and Disease Preparedness and Response Programs, Queensland is leading the

- National Four Tropical Weeds Eradication Program
- National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program in South East Queensland
- National Exotic Fruit Fly in the Torres Strait Eradication Program

- National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program - Brisbane Airport (now complete)
- National Red Witchweed Eradication Program
- White Spot Disease Response Activities (now transitioned to state based).
- National Varroa mite Eradication Program
- Electric Ants Eradication Program

In addition to these the Invasive Plants and Animals Program (IP&A), leads 22 non-cost-shared state-wide eradication projects, in partnership with local governments. Of these, 21 involve high-risk invasive plant species and one is a non-native reptile (red eared slider turtles).

In addition, the program is monitoring another 17 high-risk plant species believed to have been successfully eradicated.

Targets for eradication were carefully selected using a process of evidence-based risk assessment. Three examples are: (1) Tropical soda apple, a major weed in Florida, (2) Karroo thorn, closely related to one of Australia's worst weeds – Prickly acacia, and (3) Giant sensitive tree, a major weed in the Northern Territory.

The Plant Biosecurity and Product Integrity Program is also undertaking the Panama TR4 Program which aims to limit the spread of this disease to buy time for the banana industry to adjust and for resistant banana varieties to be developed.

As it is not technically feasible to eradicate Panama TR4, national cost-sharing arrangements under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed do not apply. This means that Queensland needs to fund the response on its own with the Palaszczuk Government having committed over \$27 million to the program to date.

There have been four anthrax incidents in the St George-Dirranbandi district in the past two years. The Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Program continues to work with producers to manage biosecurity risks associated with anthrax and with industry partners to actively promote the awareness of anthrax and risk reduction measures to protect livestock.

To build strategic capability across the system to manage the increasing number, scale and scope of biosecurity threats, the government is now working in partnership with all stakeholders across the system, including industry and the community, to co-create action plans for each of the six themes articulated in the Strategy. Each will be informed by a panel of experts who are leaders in fields relevant to each of the themes.

Through progressing partnership projects, together with learning from each new response, we will continue to build the capacity of our partners as well as Biosecurity Queensland to deal with future risks more efficiently and effectively.

The new Preparedness and Response Project in Biosecurity Queensland, initiated from a recommendation of the Capability Review, has already delivered a number of key outcomes to date. These include:

- a Biosecurity Emergency Response Group within the Department enabling the swift mobilisation of personnel in support of incident management;
- a fit-for-purpose State Coordination Centre for managing and coordinating emergency responses;

- a number of biosecurity related exercises with Local and District Disaster Management Groups across the State;
- a number of biosecurity related exercises with District Disaster Human and Social Recovery Groups;
- the delivery of Exercise Border Bridge, a cross-border simulated biosecurity emergency readiness exercise undertaken by teams from Biosecurity Queensland and the NSW Department of Primary Industries. 260 individuals from the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Animal Health Australia, Plant Health Australia, industry and other jurisdictions participated in Exercise Border Bridge – the biggest biosecurity readiness exercise undertaken in Australia in the past 10 years

The Preparedness and Response Project continues to work on the development and delivery of training, and improving relationships and networks with industry, agencies, the wider emergency services community, and governments at all levels.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 17

Asked on 2 July 2018

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 9 and the implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy, will the Minister outline the additional jobs and economic activity that have flowed from the Government's investment in the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Sustainable Fisheries Strategy: 2017-2027 is the outcome of a significant consultation process undertaken in 2016 where the Queensland community expressed a strong view regarding the need for change in the way fisheries were managed in Queensland.

The Sustainable Fisheries Strategy is the biggest fisheries reform in Queensland's history. These reforms will ensure healthy fish stocks that will support thousands of Queensland jobs.

We are making good progress in implementing the Strategy. In 12 months, 11 of the 33 actions have already been completed. This includes the employment of 20 new compliance officers and the reopening of the Gladstone Boating and Fisheries Patrol office, establishing new fishery working groups and an expert panel, and rolling out new biological monitoring.

The Government expects that the benefits to the community from the implementation of the Strategy will be more evident once the process of developing and implementing harvest strategies has been completed. This is a key target for delivery by 2020.

Longer term, by 2027, the Strategy aims to have sustainable catch limits based around more resilient biomass levels, increased certainty for commercial fishers, more satisfied recreational fishers, reduced volume of regulation, improved compliance rates and a more responsive and consultative approach to fisheries management. It is through achieving these targets that the Strategy aims to support regional economic growth.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 18

Asked on 2 July 2018

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 9 and the implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy, can the Minister outline the current status of fisheries reform in Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is making good progress implementing the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy, which was released in June last year. The Strategy is a 10 year program of reform with 33 actions.

At the end of last financial year 11 of the Strategy's 33 actions had been delivered and work is well underway on many others.

Better consultation with the sector and the public generally is a key plank of the Strategy. In this context, discussion papers which are the first step in reforming our trawl, east coast inshore and crab fisheries, were released in March 2018 for public comment.

These documents were developed in consultation with each fishery working group which includes recreational and commercial fishers, scientists, seafood marketers and conservationists. The documents included a range of management options for both the commercial and recreational sector to ensure Queensland fisheries are managed to the best practice principles set out in the Strategy.

Fisheries Queensland also undertook a round of face to face regional meetings to discuss the reform options and met with more than 340 fishers along the coast. This feedback has been considered by the fishery working groups.

However it is important to note that no final decisions have been made on any proposals at this stage. The next step is for the Sustainable Fisheries Expert Panel to review the options and make recommendations to the Department and the Government.

The Government also recently released a discussion paper on amendments to the *Fisheries Act 1994*. Proposed reforms to modernise Queensland's fisheries laws include stronger compliance powers and penalties for serious offences such as seafood black marketing.

Consultation on the proposed changes to the Fisheries Act will be used to refine the reforms and develop a Bill for Parliament's consideration.

The Strategy also commits to having vessel tracking units installed on all commercial vessels by 2020, with a priority to install them on net, line and crab boats by the end of 2018. The final vessel tracking policy and guidelines have now been released for the priority fisheries which will require vessel tracking by 1 January 2019. Details of a rebate scheme to assist industry with costs will be released over the next few months.

As well as the specific fishery reforms under the Strategy, the Government has also funded 20 new compliance officers across the State and these officers are now in place. We have also reopened the Gladstone Patrol station on a full time basis in recognition of the amount of fishing and boating activity in the area.

Better information is also central to the Strategy. As a result the Department's biological monitoring program has been expanded to improve the information to be used for management decision making.

Fisheries management is a challenge for all governments. It requires balancing access to a shared community resource by a diverse range of users. While most of our stocks are sustainable, we need to do the reform work now to ensure we keep them that way.

The Palaszczuk Government remains fully committed to delivering on the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy to ensure a world class management system that enables future generations to enjoy and prosper from sustainable fisheries.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 19

Asked on 2 July 2018

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

In reference to SDS page 9 and the Shark Control Program, can the Minister outline the additional funds provided to the Shark Control Program?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is providing increased funding of \$2.1 million over four years and \$731,000 per annum ongoing after this to help meet the growing costs of the Shark Control Program. This contribution complements the Department's ongoing funding of the Program, which in recent years has been around \$3.5 million per year.

In 2018-19 total expenditure on the Program will increase to approximately \$4.3 million with the vast majority of the increase directed towards the increasing contractor costs.

The Shark Control Program commenced in 1962 and operates at 85 of Queensland's most popular beaches. There has been only one shark attack fatality on a shark controlled beach since 1962.

In 2017-18, the program removed an estimated 480 sharks including great white sharks, tiger shark and bull sharks.

A mix of nets and drum lines are used which are designed to catch sharks over two metres in length, as experts recognise that most species of sharks over this size have the capacity to cause serious human injury or death.

The Department continues to monitor the progress of alternative shark deterrent technology trials being conducted in New South Wales. If new technologies are shown to be effective in preventing marine life fatalities and are practical for use, they will be considered as part of the Program.

To minimise impacts on marine animals the Shark Control Program has a toll free number (1800 806 891) for reporting entangled animals.

The Palaszczuk Government will not compromise safety and will not reduce the protection that shark nets and drum lines provide to surfers and swimmers.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 20

Asked on 2 July 2018

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 3 and the sustainability of Queensland's food and fibre sector, will the Minister outline what support the Government is providing to highlight and promote agriculture futures in Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government supports a vibrant, productive and innovative agricultural sector in Queensland, now and into the future.

Like many sectors, the agriculture sector is undergoing a period of rapid change, with a number of external influences shaping agricultural industry development in Queensland. The Palaszczuk Government is committed to working collaboratively with industry and other key stakeholders to explore the opportunities and challenges facing the future of the agriculture sector.

I am pleased to announce that in November 2018, AgFutures will return for the second time to the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. The AgFutures Conference in 2016 successfully brought together industry professionals, researchers, investors, innovators, government and other interested stakeholders to collaborate and hear from world-leading experts on agri-technology and investment.

AgFutures 2018 will be hosted to coincide with National Agriculture Day, and will also feature similar components to the inaugural conference, including the awards ceremony that recognised the outstanding contributions of a number of innovators within Queensland's agriculture sector.

The Palaszczuk Government supports the experience and diversity of the men and women who make up the Queensland agriculture sector, and it is encouraging to see an increasing number of women involved in what has traditionally been a largely male-dominated sector.

In March 2018, I was proud to host a dinner at Parliament House to align with International Women's Day. The dinner was a first of its kind in celebrating women in agriculture and I am looking forward to continuing to work with the many remarkable women in the Queensland agriculture sector on emerging opportunities and challenges.

Another way in which the Palaszczuk Government is actively promoting the future of Queensland's agriculture sector is the release of the Queensland Agriculture Snapshot. The snapshot provides an overview of Queensland's food and fibre industries, and reinforces the sector's significant potential and identifies areas of opportunity for further development.

In May 2018, the Palaszczuk Government released the 10-year Agriculture and Food Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) Roadmap and Action Plan. This roadmap provides a clear path forward for investment and partnerships in innovative RD&E that will position Queensland to be a research leader both nationally and globally.

In the recent 2018-19 State Budget, the Palaszczuk Government committed \$3 million to fund the continuation of business support services provided by the Rural Jobs and Skills Alliance and the Queensland Agriculture Workforce Network, to ensure that businesses have the skills they need to adapt to future technology and market changes.

These initiatives demonstrate that the Palaszczuk Government is committed to driving a sustainable, innovative, productive and competitive agriculture sector into the future.

Questions on notice and responses – *Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning*

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2018 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 1

asked on 02 July 2018

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page - 21 total departmental expenses across the Forward Estimates period chart - will the Minister provide a detailed breakdown (in table format, per financial year for 2017-18 to 2021-22) of individual program funding cuts including (a) staff profile, (b) capital expenditure and (c) operational expenditure?

ANSWER:

Any changes to the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning's budget and staffing allocation are a result of the expected finalisation of projects and programs over time, including projects such as the Commonwealth Games, the North Queensland Stadium and the State Netball Centre.

Project flexibility allows the Queensland Government to assess the emerging needs of Queensland communities and tailor new projects to align with changes to the economic environment. At all times the department aims to efficiently utilise resources for the benefit of Queenslanders.

I expect that in future years the department will undertake further projects and programs that may result in increases to expenditure and staffing.

For example, the Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund (held centrally) was extended in 2017 receiving \$20 million at the Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review (MYFER) and \$5 million through election commitments, and again in 2018 receiving an additional \$40 million as part of the 2018–19 Budget process; Building our Regions was extended in 2016 receiving an additional \$85 million and again in 2017 at MYFER receiving an additional \$70 million; Jobs and Regional Growth Fund (held centrally) was extended in 2018 as part of the 2018–19 Budget process receiving an additional \$20 million; Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline Program was extended in 2016 receiving \$20 million and in 2017 receiving an additional \$10 million; and Made in Queensland was extended in 2017 at MYFER receiving an additional \$20 million.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2018 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 2

asked on 02 July 2018

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 34 - reporting entity income statement - will the Minister provide a detailed breakdown for the 2017-18 estimated actual and 2018-19 budgeted user charges and fees by (a) the individual fee or charge amount and (b) the overall income of each individual charge and fee?

ANSWER:

A large component of the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning's (the department) user charges and fees represents revenue received (recoveries) for the cost incurred to deliver construction projects such as the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games venues and athlete's village. Accordingly, the pattern of expenditure and income matches the life of the projects.

In addition, the department raises revenue from fees and charges under the following legislation: *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*, *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014*, *Planning Act 2016* and *Right to Information Act 2009*.

Under the *Economic Development Act 2012*, the Minister for Economic Development Queensland has set fees and charges to recover the cost of considering and processing Priority Development Area (PDA) development applications and making and amending development instruments.

User charges and fees breakdown as per published Service Delivery Statements

Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning	2017-18 Estimated Actual \$'000	2018-19 Budget \$'000	Individual fee or charges
Sales of Goods and Services – cost recovery of construction projects	94,982	110,181	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction project services are cost recovered expenses, amounts depend on the project, and as such there are no set fees. This includes, for example, construction of Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games venues and athlete's village and the North Queensland Stadium.
Sales of Goods and Services - including regulated fees and charges as per listed Acts; and other Sales of Goods and Services - such as sale of land and cost recoveries.	52,072	69,986	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This amount includes fees and charges for the assessment and approval of infrastructure projects and applications relating to development within a state development area and are subject to fees in accordance with the <i>State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971</i>, <i>Planning Act 2016</i> and <i>Regional Planning Interests Act 2014</i>. Land and cost recoveries amounts depend on market conditions and cost of the activities, and as such there are no set fees. The increase between the 2017–18 Estimated Actual and 2018–19 Budget is primarily attributed to an increase in forecasted revenue from land sales at Yeerongpilly, Gold Coast Parklands and Northshore Hamilton.
Rent Revenue	12,762	11,063	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rent is set based on the location of the property rented.
Development Application fees and Development Scheme fees	3,218	5,275	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fees and charges to recover the cost of considering and processing the Priority Development Area (PDA) development applications and making and amending development instruments are subject to fees in accordance with the <i>Economic Development Act 2012</i>. The forecasted increase between 2017–18 Estimated Actual and 2018–19 Budget is primarily attributed to the anticipated high volume of development applications submitted to the Economic Development Queensland associated with the Following PDAs: Queens Wharf; Herston Quarter; Greenfield (such as: Caloundra South, Yarrabilba and Greater Flagstone).
Elimination of transactions between the department and Commercialised Business Unit of Economic Development Queensland	-33,630	-1,277	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When the department transacts with Economic Development Queensland, these transactions are eliminated to avoid duplication in reporting as a consolidated entity.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2018 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 3

asked on 02 July 2018

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 3 - key priority to facilitate projects through the Market-Led Proposals program - will the Minister outline the average time, over the three year period from 2015-16 to 2017-18, a proposal spends in each category of assessment (preliminary, stage 1, stage 2 and stage 3)?

ANSWER:

As at 30 June 2018, the median average for those proposals which have completed the relevant stage is: 1.4 months in preliminary development and assessment; 5.6 months in Stage 1 initial proposal; and 2.7 months in Stages 2 and 3.

Stage 3 ran concurrently with Stage 2 for both proposals which have completed Stage 3.

These times do not include periods when the proposal is with the proponent such as when the proponent is developing its proposal or has been asked to provide additional information to support the assessment.

The time taken to complete Stage 1 and 2 assessments, on average, is similar to the time for a transaction to conclude under the Queensland Government's Land Transaction policy.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2018 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 4

asked on 02 July 2018

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 3 - key priority to facilitate projects through the Market-Led Proposals program - will the Minister provide a detailed breakdown (in table format, per financial year) the number of proposals that have progressed from each category of assessment (preliminary, stage 1, stage 2 and stage 3) over 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18?

ANSWER:

Since 2015, Queensland has progressed nine proposals to stage 2: detailed proposal development, with two of the nine in development and five still under negotiation. The performance of Queensland's Market-Led Proposals program is comparable with that of other jurisdictions. For example, since 2015, Victoria has progressed eight proposals to detailed development, four of which have proceeded to contract execution and delivery; and New South Wales, has progressed 11 proposals to detailed development since 2012, with five proposals reaching contract close.

MLP Assessment Process
Number of Proposals Progressed by Assessment Stage and Financial Year

Progressed from	Progressed To	2015-2016 (Proposals)	2016-2017 (Proposals)	2017-2018 (Proposals)
Preliminary Assessment	Stage 1	8	1	4
Stage 1	Stage 2	4	3	2
Stage 2	Stage 3	0	1	1

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2018 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 5

asked on 02 July 2018

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 8 - Coordinator-General service standards - will the Minister provide a detailed breakdown (in table format, per financial year) the number of statutory decisions made by the Coordinator-General per work category (strong and sustainable resource communities, assessments and approvals, state development areas, compulsory land acquisition and project facilitation) in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18?

ANSWER:

It is important to note that the number of decisions made by the Coordinator General in a year does not necessarily mean more or less projects are occurring.

For example, in 2012–2013, the Coordinator General made a relatively large number of decisions (141). However, amid the poor economic climate that prevailed under the LNP Government, 39 of those decisions were related to repeals and removing coordinated status for projects that were no longer proceeding, or were decisions being made on stages of the EIS process for projects that did not proceed further.

The other consideration is the pipeline of work. Major projects take time to develop, and the pipeline of work and approvals needed can take years. Decisions in any one year are directly related to the project activity that happened in the previous years. For example, many other decisions in 2012/13 were a direct result of the projects started by the previous government such as the LNG projects and approvals for the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital state development area.

Under the LNP in the period 2012–2015, we saw confidence and business conditions hit across the state. This reduced the number of new projects coming forward from the private sector. For example, there were no new coordinated projects during 2014. By contrast, there have been 12 new coordinated projects declared since February 2015.

Following improved economic conditions and the resulting business confidence that came after the election of the Palaszczuk Labor Government, we have begun to see a turnaround in major projects coming forward. For example, the Hummock Hill Island Development project is now reaching a critical point towards proceeding. Four coordinated projects moved into construction during 17/18. The recently released infrastructure pipeline from Building Queensland also emphasises this turnaround.

In July 2018 so far, we saw the Coordinator General make 29 statutory decisions. If that pace is maintained for the rest of the year, that would lead to 460 decisions for 2018–2019.

Further details are provided in the tables below:

Financial Year 2015–16

Assessments and approvals	53
Project facilitation	12
State Development Areas	24
2015-16 total	89

Financial Year 2016–17

Assessments and approvals	47
Project facilitation	24
Land acquisition	7
State Development Areas	21
2016-17 total	99

Financial Year 2017–18

Assessments and approvals	33
Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act	6
Project facilitation	15
Land acquisition	17
State Development Areas	23
2017-18 total	94

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2018 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 6

asked on 02 July 2018

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 28 - major variation reference 9 - will the Minister provide a detailed breakdown (in table format, per financial year and per program) the budgeted, and where available, the estimated actual, allocation of centrally managed funds to the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning for 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22?

ANSWER:

I am advised that a total of \$255 million in centrally managed funds have been allocated through the budget process to the \$150 million Jobs and Regional Growth fund (JRGF) and the \$105 million Advance Queensland Industry Attraction fund (AQIAF).

The \$130 million JRGF was announced by the Premier on 1 February 2017 and was extended in the 2018–19 budget receiving an additional \$20 million.

The Premier announced a \$40 million budget allocation to AQIAF in the 2016–17 Budget. The AQIAF was extended in 2017 receiving \$20 million at the Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review (MYFER) and \$5 million through election commitments, and again in 2018 receiving an additional \$40 million as part of the 2018–19 budget process.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2018 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 7

asked on 02 July 2018

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 12- outline of the *Planning Act 2016* administration - will the Minister provide a detailed breakdown (in table format that outlines details relating to; applicant, street address, RP description, local government, description of development, council decision, council decision date, number of representations made and date on notice of call in) for all development projects called in by him or the department since 2 February 2017 (including projects that are still under consideration)?

ANSWER:

The provisions relating to the Planning Ministers call in powers are contained within section 101 to 106 of the *Planning Act 2016* (the Planning Act).

From 2 February 2017 to 11 December 2017, I was the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, and was unable to exercise the call in power under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*, which was in force up until 3 July 2017. I was also unable to exercise the power under the Planning Act, which commenced 3 July 2017.

The power for the Planning Minister to call in a development application has existed since the commencement of the *Integrated Planning Act 1997*. As the name suggests, a ministerial call in is a ministerial reserve power and the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDMIP) has no ability to call in a development application. I have called in no applications as Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2018 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 8

asked on 02 July 2018

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 12 - measure of stakeholder satisfaction with accessibility and transparency - will the Minister provide (in table format, per financial year) a detailed breakdown of the Department's number of customer complaints; the timeliness of the response; whether the complaint was substantiated or unsubstantiated; and whether any action resulted from the complaint for 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18?

ANSWER:

The Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (the department) is committed to actively responding to complaints from customers. Feedback from customer complaints provides valuable information which contributes to the department's ongoing service improvements.

Each customer complaint receives a personalised response, including those that have been received in relation to other government agencies.

When misdirected complaints are received by the department, customers are provided with clear advice on how to contact the responsible agency.

When customer complaints are unsubstantiated the customer receives a response explaining why that is the case and the customer's review rights.

When customer complaints are substantiated the department advises the customer and takes appropriate action. Examples include: issuing apologies, reconsidering or reviewing decisions, resolving technical errors such as website problems, and correcting inaccurate records.

The table below provides the statistical breakdown of complaints received and outcomes for 2016–17 and 2017–18. These statistics are published annually on the department's website in accordance with Section 219A of the *Public Service Act 2008*.

Results prior to 2016–17 are not comparable due to legislative changes therefore cannot be accurately reported on the same basis.

	2016–17 ¹	2017–18 ²
Number of customer complaints received (excluding misdirected complaints referred to other agencies as appropriate)	42	39
Number of Departmental customer complaints	32	35
Number of Substantiated customer complaints	3	5
Number of Unsubstantiated customer complaints	29	30
Timeliness of response ³	88%	81%

¹ figures for former Department of State Development

² figures for former Department of State Development to December 2017 and current Department of State Development, Manufacturing and Planning from January 2018 onwards

³ percentage of customer complaints responded to within the department's service standard of 15 working days

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2018 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 9

asked on 02 July 2018

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 7 - Queensland Biofutures 10-Year Roadmap service area highlight - will the Minister:

- a) Detail the amount of funding expended by his department that is related to the roadmap in the 2016-17 and 2017-18 financial years;
- b) List all projects funded in relation to the roadmap in the 2016-17 and 2017-18 financial years, the individual cost of each projects, its purpose, expected value of capital enabled, and geographic location; and
- c) Detail the amount of funding expected to be expended by his department in 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 financial years?

ANSWER:

The Queensland government is investing \$32.37 million through funding programs such as the Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund, Jobs and Regional Growth Fund, the Biofutures Industry Development Program, the Biofutures Acceleration Program and the Biofutures Commercialisation Program to support development of the biofutures industry in Queensland over three years from 2016–17 to 2018–19.

Please note that the funding expended by the Biofutures Commercialisation Program which is identified in the Biofutures Roadmap is expended by the Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games and so has not been included in this response.

- a. Approximately \$4 million has been expended by the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning in 2016–17 and 2017–18 financial years on projects and initiatives under the Biofutures Roadmap.
- b. The value of the relevant projects is listed below:

Project	Purpose	Expected capital value	Proposed location
Amyris	Preliminary feasibility and site identification studies assessing viability of potential biorefinery producing biochemicals, pharmaceuticals and supplements	Unknown until preliminary feasibility is complete	Sugarcane region/ Regional Queensland

Project	Purpose	Expected capital value	Proposed location
United Ethanol	Feasibility studies assessing viability of expanding Dalby ethanol biorefinery	\$26 million	Dalby
MSF Sugar	Detailed feasibility studies assessing viability of potential biorefinery based on agave feedstock to produce ethanol and other bioproducts	\$60 million	Atherton Tablelands
Utilitas	Preliminary feasibility studies assessing viability of potential biorefinery using waste feedstock to produce electricity and intermediary product for biofuels	\$18 million	Bundaberg
Leaf Resources	Preliminary feasibility and site identification studies assessing viability of potential biorefinery	Unknown until preliminary feasibility is complete	Sugarcane region/ Regional Queensland
Mercurius	Preliminary feasibility and feedstock validation studies assessing viability of potential biorefinery to produce biodiesel and bioplastics	\$11 million	Gladstone
Renewable Developments Australia	Biorefinery	\$600 million	Pentland (near Charters Towers)
Bioprocessing Australia	Integrated Biorefinery	\$50 million	Mackay
Southern Oil Refinery	Pilot Advanced Biofuels Plant	\$18 million	Gladstone
North Queensland Bio-Energy Corporation	Biorefinery	\$640 million	Ingham

- c. The amount of funding expected to be expended by the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning in 2018–19, 2019–20, 2020–21 and 2021–22 financial years will depend on the outcomes of existing programs currently being rolled out, milestones being met by a number of private sector proponents and future opportunities.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2018 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 10

asked on 02 July 2018

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 37 - Building Queensland Business Case Development Framework - will the Minister outline the average time, over the three year period from 2015-16 to 2017-18, a proposal spent in each stage of assessment (strategic business case, preliminary business case and detailed business case)?

ANSWER:

The average time Building Queensland spent developing business cases was 31 weeks.

The average time spent developing preliminary business case proposals was 21 weeks.

Building Queensland is typically not involved in the full process for strategic business case development.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2018 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 11

asked on 02 July 2018

QUESTION:

In reference to page 4 of the SDS, can the Minister advise the committee on what industry attraction initiatives are available to attract businesses to Queensland?

ANSWER:

The Queensland government is committed to creating jobs and increasing private sector investment in the state.

Queensland is the place for innovation, enterprise and industry and is supported by a diverse and robust economy offering advantages such as a highly skilled workforce, pro-business government and infrastructure to support our growing economy.

The Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (the department) is actively engaging with companies, with the aim of encouraging the relocation and establishment of new operations in Queensland and the re-investment and expansion of existing operations within Queensland.

The department works across government and the private sector to provide a tailored approach to industry attraction and facilitation.

The \$105 million Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund (AQIAF) is one of the government's key financial incentive programs designed to increase private sector investment in the state.

Requests for funding under AQIAF are subject to rigorous and comprehensive due diligence and economic assessment and are guided by six key principles:

- employment benefits
- alignment with the Queensland Government's priority industry sectors and the government's wider policy agenda
- contestability of the project to ensure there is no crowding out of existing operations in Queensland
- attraction of commercially viable and sustainable projects in the absence of incentives
- generate economic activity that would not have occurred in the absence of the incentive

- incentives should be linked to the achievement of clearly defined outcomes and specific milestones.

Assistance under AQIAF is based on:

- the proponent being able to demonstrate a proven track record of successful operations
- the economic activity of the project will benefit the state in terms of innovation, address a gap in the industry and have flow on benefits to other companies in the local supply chain
- the project will have a cascading effect in improving or growing an industry.

Some recent AQIAF success stories include:

- Qantas Boeing 787-900 Dreamliner base
- OJI Fibre Solutions who located their new pulp, paper and fibre based packaging facility in Queensland
- EGR who are expanding its national automotive manufacturing hub in Brisbane.
- Boeing's unmanned aerial vehicle platform technology project

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2018 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 12

asked on 02 July 2018

QUESTION:

In reference to page 10 of the SDS, could the Minister update the committee on how the Department supports the implementation of the Palaszczuk Government's Infrastructure agenda?

ANSWER:

My role as Minister for Infrastructure is to provide leadership and oversight through whole-of-government infrastructure policy and coordination.

I will continue to work closely with my Ministerial colleagues who are responsible for delivering the roads, schools, hospitals and other infrastructure, to monitor the overall delivery of our infrastructure program.

Overarching infrastructure priorities are established through the State Infrastructure Plan. The State Infrastructure Plan provides a clear vision for infrastructure investment in Queensland and supports growth, employment and economic development. It is a whole-of-state and whole-of-government framework for infrastructure planning, prioritisation and investment.

The 2018 update of the State Infrastructure Plan recognises Queensland's diverse communities and needs and the opportunities and challenges we face in meeting the infrastructure challenge.

It acknowledges that contributions from all levels of government and the private sector are integral to delivering a strong pipeline of infrastructure investment across the state, enabling prosperity and creating the right conditions for growth.

The 2018 State Infrastructure Plan Part B update provides a forward pipeline view of emerging infrastructure investment strategies across all infrastructure classes. This is vital for infrastructure industry stakeholders as it assists with workforce planning and provides confidence about long-term job security across the state.

In my role as Infrastructure Minister, I am also responsible for representing Queensland's infrastructure priorities at a national level through the development of priorities for the Infrastructure Australia Infrastructure Priority List. This ensures we take a coordinated approach to infrastructure investment, and that our priorities as a government continue to be achieved.

One of my first actions as Minister for Infrastructure was to outline our infrastructure priorities to Infrastructure Australia which included:

- Cross River Rail
- Increasing capacity of the M1 Pacific Motorway (Varsity Lakes to Tugun)
- Resolving capacity, efficiency and safety issues on the M1 Pacific Motorway (Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill)
- Providing additional capacity on the Gold Coast Rail Line – Kuraby to Beenleigh, and
- Rail upgrade initiative from Beerburrum to Nambour

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2018 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 13

asked on 02 July 2018

QUESTION:

In reference to page 7 of the SDS, could the Minister advise how the state's independent Coordinator-General is facilitating economic development and employment opportunities for Queenslanders?

ANSWER:

The Coordinator-General has wide-ranging powers under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* to facilitate large-scale and complex projects that support economic development and employment.

Under this Act, the powers that are currently most often used by the Coordinator-General are:

- declaring a project a coordinated project – (this starts an environmental impact statement (EIS) process that the Coordinator-General coordinates as a one stop shop and decides whether to approve the project)
- assessing and approving changes to projects and approval conditions for projects that have been through an EIS
- investigating and recommending to the Minister the declaration of new State Development Areas (SDA)
- coordinating all planning and development in SDAs, including assessing and approving development applications.
- acquiring land or easements to facilitate projects
- selling or leasing land.
- providing access to land for investigations and temporary works
- granting licences to build and operate infrastructure in SDAs
- using prescribed project powers to ensure timely decision-making by agencies.
- ensuring compliance with approval conditions imposed by the Coordinator-General.

In addition, the Coordinator-General administers the new *Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act 2017* (SSRC Act) which commenced on 30 March 2018. The Act ensures that residents of communities near large scale resource projects benefit economically and socially from these projects.

To support the effective operation of the SSRC Act a new enhanced social impact assessment guideline was published on the department's website. This new guideline is being used for the first time on Pembroke's Olive Downs coal project.

The Coordinator-General also decided on the first projects that will be captured by the Act and published an initial list of 61 large resource projects and the 265 nearby regional communities associated with these projects for which the SSRC Act applies. This was based solely on the 125km distance and towns over 200 people within that catchment area.

The Coordinator-General also has the power under the SSRC Act to make discretionary decisions to include or exclude towns or projects based on the size of the town and distance from the project. The Coordinator-General received requests and submissions to make discretionary decisions on 25 projects and is currently finalising his decisions on these.

Since February 2015, the Coordinator-General has made 357 statutory decisions that support economic development across the state (a rate of around 100 per year).

Currently there are 12 coordinated projects under environmental assessment which, if approved, represent a total capital value of more than \$18.9 billion and more than 22,700 construction jobs and 9,000 operational jobs. The projects include mines, large resorts, port and agricultural development.

Since February 2015, the Coordinator-General has approved nine coordinated projects and their EISs, with the most recent being the Lindeman Great Barrier Reef Resort, the Townsville Port Expansion and the Cairns Shipping Development project during 17/18.

Over the same period, the Coordinator-General has declared 12 new coordinated projects.

The Office of the Coordinator-General has reduced EIS assessment times by 54 per cent since 2012, due to rigorous processes and systems, while also improving the quality and robustness of assessments during this period.

In December 2017, the Coordinator-General declared the first coordinated project for which an Impact Assessment report (IAR) is required (namely, the Six Mile Creek Dam Safety Upgrade project).

21 major projects are being actively facilitated to progress them to the construction stage, 15 are prescribed projects. These projects have a combined capital expenditure of \$33.2 billion with around 15,000 construction jobs and 15,700 operational jobs.

A number of these prescribed projects, such as the Baralaba Expansion Project, Kidston Project, and Capricorn Copper Mine Refurbishment and Restart Project, through the

facilitation provided by the Coordinator-General, have completed construction of their first phase of development, are operating, and are moving into further stages of development.

During the 2017-2018 financial year, there were three new prescribed project declarations: Daydream Island Repair and Refurbishment Project, Hayman Island Project and Hummock Hill Island Development.

The Office of the Coordinator-General has assisted these projects by providing advice to proponents on approval pathways to fast track delivery and coordinated these approvals across government to ensure critical project approvals are obtained on time.

On 19 June 2018, I approved that the Coordinator-General use his legislative step in powers for the Hummock Hill Island Development following Gladstone Regional Council's decision to reject the development application for the project. The Coordinator-General is now undertaking a new and comprehensive assessment of the development application.

There are currently 10 SDAs comprising industrial hubs for large-scale heavy industry at Abbot Point, Bromelton, Bundaberg, Gladstone, and Townsville, multi-user infrastructure corridors at Callide, Galilee Basin, Stanwell to Gladstone, and Surat Basin, and a major public infrastructure site - the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital.

The Coordinator-General provides a one stop shop for assessing and deciding all development applications in SDAs. In the last financial year, the time taken to assess and decide SDA applications was 32.7 business days which is 69% less than the statutory time.

During the 2017-18 financial year the Coordinator-General approved 18 SDA applications in the 10 existing SDAs. Should these projects proceed, they will deliver an estimated \$57 million in capital expenditure and create 159 construction jobs and 87 operational jobs.

The most recent SDA, the Bundaberg SDA, was declared in early 2017 to boost economic growth and create jobs in the region. The Bundaberg SDA will provide opportunities for industry to locate near the port and efficiently use infrastructure services such as gas, power and water supply. On 17 May 2018, the Coordinator-General approved the first request within the Bundaberg SDA for a solar farm which, at peak capacity, will supply four megawatts of renewable electricity to the Ergon network.

In SDAs the Coordinator-General can acquire land and make it available to a proponent. This can facilitate the success of a proponent's project. Finding suitable land and obtaining access and tenure can be key constraints in the development of any major project. On 1 June 2018, the Coordinator-General acquired approximately 810 hectares of land within the Townsville SDA to accelerate development and support a commitment of the Townsville City Deal. The Coordinator-General is responsible for delivery of this commitment which includes the acceleration of development by attracting and retaining industry to the Townsville SDA.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2018 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 14

asked on 02 July 2018

QUESTION:

In reference to page 5 of the SDS, could the Minister please advise the Committee about how the Resource Recovery Industry Development Program will assist in the management of Queensland's waste?

ANSWER:

Funded by the proposed waste disposal levy and at no cost to ratepayers, the Resource Recovery Industry Development Program (RRIDP) will provide much needed grant funding to the recycling, resource recovery and biofutures industries to reduce waste going to landfill and generate jobs for the future.

As part of a comprehensive waste strategy for Queensland, the Queensland government has proposed a waste disposal levy which will commence in 2019. There are significant opportunities to employ innovative technologies in Queensland that will use a range of waste streams to produce a sustainable, high-value energy and biofutures industry including generating jobs.

The fund will provide opportunities across three streams.

The first stream will be a capital grants stream with dollar-for-dollar grants available from \$50,000 to \$5 million. This stream would provide funding to build a facility or purchase key equipment that align with the RRIDP and its objectives.

The second stream is a broader financial incentives stream to attract major projects. These are expected to be exceptional proposals and would enable the Queensland government to support projects which are larger scale and offer significant employment and supply chain opportunities for the state. These may not necessarily be dollar-for-dollar grants and could include a suite of incentive tools.

The third stream will support projects of suitable technical readiness that require support for investigations such as advanced site investigations or late stage feasibility studies.

To be eligible for funding, a project must be Queensland-based, maximise recovery and recycling and divert waste currently going to Queensland landfill.

The project must also sustain or create jobs in Queensland and be at a commercial readiness level.

These projects will provide opportunities for local governments and businesses to reduce the waste to landfill and create a sustainable, high-value energy and biofutures industry.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2018 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 15

asked on 02 July 2018

QUESTION:

In reference to page 3 of the SDS, can the Minister update the Committee on the outcomes of the Made in Queensland initiative, and provide some examples of businesses that have benefited?

ANSWER:

Made in Queensland is a \$40 million state-wide grants program offering for grants of between \$50,000 and \$2.5 million to assist Queensland manufacturers to improve their technology, processes, efficiency, competitiveness and take Queensland's manufacturing industry to the next level.

Made in Queensland Round 1 resulted in 53 grants totalling \$18.2 million being approved for Queensland-based manufacturers. Made in Queensland Round 2 opened on 26 April 2018 and closed on 24 May 2018. 115 Expressions of Interest have been received and are currently being assessed.

Made in Queensland assists Queensland small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) manufacturers to adopt new technologies, processes and systems across the state's traditional industrial strengths (e.g. agriculture, food, mining) as well as emerging niches (e.g. pharmaceuticals).

Made in Queensland grants reimburse eligible businesses up to 50 per cent of the agreed project costs of leading edge or innovative equipment or systems.

This program directly aligns with the Queensland government's Advanced Manufacturing 10 Year Roadmap and Action Plan that is focused on Queensland becoming a recognised leader - nationally and internationally - by 2026 for its advanced manufacturing technologies, products, systems and services.

Some examples of Made in Queensland Round 1 grant projects are:

- Toowoomba food manufacturer Pixie Ice Cream was supported by nearly \$1.5 million in grant funding to install automated wrapping and boxing equipment to increase distribution capacity and compete internationally

- Brilliant Prints of Seventeen Mile Rocks was provided with a grant of \$107,000 to install a technologically advanced printing and processing system which will provide an end-to-end supply service to their local and international clients
- DGH Engineering of Paget, south of Mackay received \$198,000 to install a CNC multi-functioning lathe which provides opportunities for the manufacturer to service a wider market with its engineering, fabrication, fitting and maintenance services.
- Gessner, an agricultural equipment manufacturer from Toowoomba and the first Made in Queensland recipient to fund an enterprise resource planning (ERP) System and a Management System to facilitate and promote process improvements within the organisation. The proposed project will implement management system software and develop and implement a number of operational process improvements through the system.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2018 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 16

asked on 02 July 2018

QUESTION:

In reference to page 4 of the SDS, can the Minister advise how the Defence Industry Roadmap will promote manufacturing and supply chain opportunities in Queensland?

ANSWER:

As part of the \$650 million Advance Queensland initiative, the Queensland government is dedicated to diversifying Queensland's economy and creating the knowledge-based jobs of the future, today.

The defence industry, which is well-positioned for significant ongoing growth, innovation and success, is a priority sector under Advance Queensland.

In 2016–17 alone, Queensland's defence industries supported more than 6,500 jobs and secured \$4.3 billion in Australian defence contract payments.

We are committed to growing and promoting the defence industry and cementing its national and international reputation for excellence, and maximising Queensland's share of an unprecedented \$195 billion in Commonwealth government defence spending over the next 10 years.

The Queensland Defence Industries 10 Year Roadmap and Action Plan identifies three key strategies to grow manufacturing and supply chain opportunities:

- grow Queensland defence industry capability to ensure small to medium enterprises (SMEs) are appropriately skilled and ready to enter defence supply chains
- significantly increase Queensland's defence industry contribution to the national and global market by, working with primes and SMEs to secure more projects in Queensland and increase the number of manufacturing and sustainment opportunities
- promote Queensland's defence industry capabilities by working with SMEs to promote their capabilities to domestic and international markets.

The recent award of the \$5.2 billion LAND 400 Phase 2 project to Rheinmetall is a landmark project for Queensland that will take the industry to the next level. Together with other successful defence projects, it demonstrates the state's competitive edge and its world-class technological and industrial capabilities.

Queensland's reputation is opening new doors for investment, and was also pivotal in the Commonwealth Government's decision to base the Defence Cooperative Research Centre for Trusted Autonomous Systems here in Queensland. The new \$101 million centre will be used to develop drone and robotic technology for the defence force.

This investment, coupled with the pace of technological change, presents a once in a generation opportunity for defence suppliers, and the government wants to ensure Queensland business is ready and able to make the most of this incredible opportunity.

To support the roadmap, a number of key initiatives are underway:

- \$10 million to fund defence hubs in Ipswich and Townsville which will focus on defence industry supply chain, logistics and maintenance
- the appointment of a number of Strategic Defence Advisors including for Land, Sea and Air – Lieutenant General Peter Leahy AC (retired), Rear Admiral Simon Cullen AM (retired) and Air Vice Marshal Neil Hart AM (retired)
- the establishment of a number of defence industry governance bodies bringing key stakeholders together to advance our clear and strong vision for defence industry growth
- the creation of Defence Jobs Queensland – a dedicated group in the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning acting as a single point of contact, coordination and action for defence and aerospace industry in government.

What the Queensland government is doing today will change the face of the state's manufacturing and defence industry, pull together and unlock supply chain opportunities, creating and sustaining deep economic growth and highly-skilled jobs for decades to come.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2018 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 17

asked on 02 July 2018

QUESTION:

In reference to page 7 of the SDS, can the Minister please advise on how the Queensland Biofutures Road Map will help to deliver sustainable energy in Queensland?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Biofutures Road Map and Action Plan (Biofutures Roadmap) sets a vision for Queensland to have a \$1 billion sustainable and export oriented industrial biotechnology sector attracting international investment and creating thousands of regional, high value and knowledge intensive jobs by 2026.

The Queensland government is investing \$32.37 million through funding programs such as the Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund, the Biofutures Industry Development Program, the Biofutures Acceleration Program and the Biofutures Commercialisation Program to support development of the biofutures industry in Queensland.

These funds help to position the state as an Asia-Pacific hub for the industrial biotechnology and bioproducts sector.

A key bioproduct to be manufactured from these projects is sustainable, renewable energy in the form of biofuels, biogas and electricity.

Projects supported under the Biofutures Roadmap will potentially have the capacity to produce over 500 million litres of biofuel and generate more than 1000 megawatt per hour of renewable electricity per annum - a significant contribution to Queensland's sustainable energy needs.

The Queensland government announced in the state budget a further \$5 million for a Waste to Bioenergy Fund to support innovative projects that use waste streams from urban industry, agricultural residues and food processing to further develop sustainable bioproducts and bioenergy project opportunities.

The state's implementation of the Biofutures Roadmap has the potential to deliver sustainable energy in Queensland and improve energy security.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2018 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 18

asked on 02 July 2018

QUESTION:

In reference to page 5 of the SDS, can the Minister update the Committee on what the Government is doing to promote the aerospace industry in Queensland?

ANSWER:

Now is Queensland's time to secure its position as an Asia-Pacific aerospace hub.

The state's aviation industry proudly stretches back almost a century, to the foundation of Qantas in Winton in 1920 during the pioneering days of powered flight. A century later, aerospace has become a significant contributor to the state's employment and revenue base.

In 2015–16 alone, Queensland's aircraft manufacturing and repair businesses generated approximately \$1.2 billion in revenue and contributed \$565 million to Queensland's economic growth, as well as providing over 4,200 jobs across more than 300 enterprises.

The Queensland Aerospace 10 Year Roadmap and Action Plan (the Aerospace Roadmap) which I released on 17 June 2018, champions the sector by aiming to accelerate the pace of aerospace growth in both the civilian and defence sectors, and support industry and the sector to create the high paid, sustainable jobs of the future.

The Aerospace Roadmap sets out a range of actions across three strategies:

- develop Queensland's aerospace industry and create highly-skilled jobs
- enhance Queensland's level of aerospace industry capability to access new global supply chain opportunities and international markets
- promote Queensland as a preferred destination for aerospace capability locally and globally.

Funding allocated to the roadmap will deliver a suite of initiatives, including:

- establishing Queensland as an international hub for Unmanned Aerial Systems (UASs)
- pursuing supply chain opportunities in major international defence and civil aerospace projects, such as deep maintenance of RAAF aircraft including the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, C-17 Globemaster and CH-47 Chinook helicopters.

Queensland is already a national aerospace leader, with leading capabilities and advantages that the Aerospace Roadmap will help build on, including a hub of major aerospace businesses and Australia's largest military airbase at RAAF Base Amberley. This includes a skilled workforce known for delivering high-quality products and significant expertise in maintenance, repair and overhaul. We also boast world-leading expertise in emerging fields such as UASs and hypersonics.

A recent win for our aerospace sector is the Commonwealth government's decision to locate the headquarters of the \$101 million Defence Cooperative Research Centre for Trusted Autonomous Systems in Queensland – clear recognition of our state's expertise.

The Aerospace Roadmap's release is timely following the Commonwealth government's announcement in September 2017 that it is setting up a national space agency, and the subsequent review of Australia's space capability.

Given the growing interest in the space industry and the sector's potential to contribute economic value to the state, the Queensland government has also established a space industry reference group. The group will identify opportunities for this important and emerging sector in Queensland that will see it grow further and create jobs. The reference group is headed by our strategic advisor for Air, retired Air Vice-Marshal Neil Hart AM.

In addition to this, the Queensland government will be supporting small to medium enterprises (SMEs) at MRO Asia in Singapore in November 2018 and Avalon Airshow in early 2019. Both of these events will highlight the capability of Queensland aerospace businesses and assist in promoting Queensland's industry domestically and internationally.

The Aerospace Roadmap sets out ambitious but practical steps to build on Queensland's decades of aerospace excellence.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2018 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 19

asked on 02 July 2018

QUESTION:

In reference to page 12 of the SDS, can the Minister please outline how the Government is using the planning system to ensure that the people of Ipswich are not adversely affected by waste policy?

ANSWER:

On 6 April 2018, the Queensland government took immediate and decisive action to respond to community and council concerns over the impact that waste facilities can have on neighbouring residents. As Planning Minister, I made Temporary Local Planning Instrument (TLPI) No. 1 of 2018 – Waste Activity Regulation to regulate development applications for new or expanded waste facilities in the Swanbank and New Chum industrial areas at Ipswich.

Over the last few decades, residential development in the eastern suburbs of Ipswich has been slowly encroaching towards the Swanbank and New Chum industrial areas. The local community has expressed concerns about social and environmental impacts being experienced from existing landfills and raised further concerns that proposed new landfills will exacerbate these impacts.

The TLPI provides an interim policy response to emerging social and environmental conditions occurring in the Swanbank and New Chum industrial area and seeks to balance the management of these impacts with the key economic role this industrial area has in South East Queensland.

The TLPI introduces a new buffer area to appropriately separate landfill activities from existing, approved or planned residential areas as well as new assessment criteria to reduce impacts on neighbouring residential areas. In addition, the TLPI does not support new or expanded open-air compost manufacturing operations without providing significantly improved environmental outcomes.

The TLPI is currently in operation and will be in effect for two years. It is anticipated that the local government authority will use this time to consider, consult on and make amendments to its planning scheme, taking the views of the community and industry into consideration. The government will also work with the local government authority as it progresses amendments to its planning scheme and consults with industry and the people of Ipswich.

As part of a comprehensive waste strategy for Queensland, the Queensland government has proposed a waste disposal levy which will commence in the first quarter of 2019. The proposed waste disposal levy will fund the Resource Recovery Industry Development Program (RRIDP) which will provide much needed grant funding to the recycling, resource recovery and biofutures industries to reduce waste going to landfill and generate jobs for the future. \$100 million has been allocated over three years to support this fund. Eligible projects will provide opportunities for local governments and businesses to reduce the waste to landfill and create a sustainable, high-value energy and biofutures industry.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2018 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 20

asked on 02 July 2018

QUESTION:

In reference to page 39 of the SDS, can the Minister advise the committee on how the Government is supporting Queensland communities' resilience to natural disasters?

ANSWER:

In a nationwide first for disaster recovery and resilience, the Queensland government has launched a state-wide plan that will strengthen Queensland's resilience to natural disasters. Australia's only permanent disaster recovery agency, Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA), in consultation with other key government and community stakeholders, has developed *Resilient Queensland 2018-2021 – Delivering the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience* to strengthen Queensland's resilience to natural disasters.

Since 2011, Queensland has been impacted by more than 60 significant natural disaster events resulting in loss of life and more than \$14.4 billion in damage to public infrastructure. To thrive in such an environment, it is essential that Queenslanders anticipate, respond and adapt to changing circumstances and cultivate strong levels of community connectedness, trust and cooperation.

Resilient Queensland is a blueprint for use across government, the community, not-for-profit sector, business and industry that will see regions across Queensland co-develop individually-tailored regional resilience plans.

Activities delivered under Resilient Queensland will strengthen our communication networks, encourage shared knowledge, identify opportunities and refine our understanding of community attitudes and disaster awareness levels across Queensland.

Resilient Queensland provides greater confidence that everyone across the state is working in a coordinated way to achieve our shared goal of making Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia.

The Queensland government is already delivering a more disaster resilient state through a range of programs including the joint State and Commonwealth Betterment Fund, as well as the wholly state-supported North Stradbroke Island Township Bushfire Management Plans and the Burnett Catchment Flood Resilience Strategy, with a range of new regional disaster resilience strategy pilot locations identified for future efforts.

A key benefit of this locally-led approach is that it is strengthening relationships between local governments and state agencies to support the development of resilient building strategies that can be aligned to future funding opportunities.

QRA is administering the \$14.3 million 2017-18 Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP), jointly funded by the Queensland and Commonwealth governments under the National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience, to reduce Queensland communities' vulnerability to natural disasters and build community resilience.

72 projects from 54 councils and 12 organisations and agencies have been approved in the 2017–18 funding round.

QRA received a large number of applications for funding from Queensland councils, Queensland Government agencies, non-government and not-for-profit organisations, with the quality of the applications demonstrating the innovation, enthusiasm and commitment of Queensland communities to build local resilience.

Unfortunately, although we now have certainty with the reformed natural disaster funding model, there has been no commitment from the Commonwealth to continue the NDRP past the end of the 2017–18 financial year.

That's why in May 2018, the Queensland government announced a \$38 million Disaster Resilience Fund (DRF) which will support local governments, state agencies and non-government organisations deliver mitigation and resilience projects across four years starting in 2018–19, in parallel with disaster reconstruction works.

This fighting fund aims to bridge the gap between the cessation of the NDRP and the allocation of funds realised from efficiencies under the new Commonwealth funding model. The Queensland government is asking the Commonwealth to match the state dollar for dollar over the next four years so Queensland can get on with the job of protecting our communities against future disasters.

History shows that upfront investment in stronger infrastructure and more resilient communities saves money for all levels of government in the long-term.

The Queensland Betterment Fund has been a success story for this state in building stronger more resilient infrastructure in the face of repeated natural disasters.

Betterment allows local governments to rebuild essential public assets to a more resilient standard that helps them withstand the impacts of future disasters.

Following Cyclones Oswald and Marcia in 2013 and 2015, a \$100 million investment in bettering the state's infrastructure has already been recovered through avoided restoration costs from subsequent natural disasters, such as Severe Tropical Cyclone (STC) Debbie.

In response to STC Debbie, a new \$41.85 million Betterment Fund was established. The 2017 Queensland Betterment Fund approved 83 projects across 22 local government areas, providing the resources needed to build back better so the next disaster doesn't have the same devastating impact as STC Debbie.

Highlights include \$1.85 million secured by Whitsunday Regional Council to raise the height of the Shute Harbour Seawall which bore the brunt of wild seas and extreme cyclonic winds during STC Debbie. Scenic Rim Regional Council also secured more than \$1.8 million to build a new, more resilient concrete Jerome Bridge, replacing the damaged old timber bridge.

More resilient infrastructure allows communities to stay connected and recover quicker after a flood. It ensures roads and bridges can stay open, water treatment plants and sewerage infrastructure can keep operating and businesses, including primary producers that rely on vital transport routes, can stay on track.

Queensland is the most disaster-affected state in Australia, and it is vital the Commonwealth continues to support Queensland in these resilience building programs.

Again, I call on the Commonwealth to give disaster-weary Queenslanders a fair go and match our \$38 million commitment to deliver mitigation and resilience projects over the next four years.

Questions on notice and responses – *Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy*

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1

asked on 2 JULY 2018

QUESTION:

In reference to page 27 item 19 in the SDS, can the Minister explain the following in relation to the write-off of inventory previously held for the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative (GABSI):

- a) What specifically has been written-off;
- b) A breakdown of the funds allocated in 2017-18 and 2018-19 to GABSI; and
- c) A progress update of the programs as of the start of 2018-19 in comparison to 2017-18?

ANSWER:

- a) In the 2016-17 financial year, surplus inventories with a book value of \$676 029.54 held in Charleville and Longreach were written-off; these comprised of polythene fittings and steel casing for the construction of water bores and reticulation system. In delivering GABSI, for many years up to the end of Phase 3 in 2014, the department purchased and stored inventory, then supplied/charged the inventory to landholders for installation of their GABSI projects. The department changed the delivery model for Phase 4 due to extensive delays in securing federal government funding, so that landholders organised delivery of their own projects and were dispersed government funding when the projects were completed. Consequently, the inventories were no longer necessary or relevant, nor are they relevant to the current 'Interim Great Artesian Basin Infrastructure Investment Program' (IGABIIP). The department is developing an appropriate disposal process for these surplus inventories.

- (b) Funds allocated to GABSI 4 relate to a Project Agreement in line with the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations

In 2017-18 the allocation was:

- \$0.842 million with equal contributions of \$0.421 million of State and Commonwealth funding.

In 2018-19 the allocation was:

- Nil, as the Project Agreement ended on 30 June 2018.

- (c) The IGABIIP 2017-19 follows on from the GABSI 4 program. The multilateral Project Agreement (IGA FFR) for IGABIIP between Queensland, the Commonwealth and other participating states commenced February 2018. Funds allocated are:

- State works budget of up to \$4 million, depending on the amount of equal funding to be provided by the Commonwealth under a Bilateral Project Schedule.

- The Commonwealth has not yet formally confirmed its level of involvement in the new on-ground program.

The Bilateral Project Schedule is drafted and being negotiated currently for projects that would commence in the 2018-19 financial year.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 2

asked on 2 JULY 2018

QUESTION:

In reference to page 19 of the SDS regarding the Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme, can the Minister outline the parameters of this program, the allocated funding for 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 (reported separately by year) and why this is described as a 'limited life initiative'?

ANSWER:

The parameters of the Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme include initiatives to implement and sustain the delivery of Monash University and Select Committee recommendations in response to Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis (CWP).

The allocated funding for the program reported by year is detailed on page 75 of the Budget Measures in Budget Paper No.4 as follows:

	2017-18 \$'000	2018-19 \$'000	2019-20 \$'000	2020-21 \$'000	2021-22 \$'000
Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme	7,565	9,468

In 2018-19, investment will sustain these reforms, including:

- embedding a medical provider registration framework as a mandatory requirement, including an accreditation program;
- clinical and administrative audits of coal mine worker employers, doctors, X-ray imaging and spirometry providers to ensure compliance;
- the continued support of the University of Illinois at Chicago;
- the continued transition to an electronic records management system;
- investing further in research and health surveillance to report results to stakeholders and inform the effectiveness of primary preventative measures;
- a further review of the respiratory component of the Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme, as recommended by Monash University;
- frontline dust management response and
- continued implementation of the CWP Select Committee recommendations.

The departmental capital program also includes \$2.6 million in 2018-19 towards systems development for the management of coal mine workers' health assessment data, as noted on page 17 of the SDS.

Limited life funding was provided in 2017-18 and 2018-19 to allow immediate action to address the Monash University and CWP Select Committee recommendations. Ongoing funding from the department's operating budget will sustain reforms to the Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme, along with any additional funding required in relation to ongoing implementation of the Select Committee recommendations.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 3

asked on 2 JULY 2018

QUESTION:

In reference to page 2 objective to the deliver "safe, secure, affordable and sustainable use of our water and energy resources" of the SDS, can the Minister outline the following:

- a) The percentage of the overall state-wide irrigation water allocations that were not used in 2017-18; and
- b) The individual breakdown percentage of water use in each SunWater irrigation scheme in 2016-17 & 2017-18?

ANSWER:

- a) Complete data for the 2017–18 water year is not yet available because meter reading information is still being verified and compiled. Complete data for 2017–18 will be made available in September 2018.

The table below shows irrigation data for SunWater for the 2016–17 water year:

	Total Water Entitlements (ML)	Total Available Water (ML)	Total Water Deliveries (ML)	Total Entitlements / Deliveries (%)
SunWater	1,591,134	1,740,356	1,115,972	70.1%

Figures taken from 2016–17 Annual Report

The table below shows irrigation data for Seqwater for the 2016–17 water year:

	Available Water (ML)¹	Net Usage (ML)	Use of Available Allocation (%)
Seqwater	63,627	22,920	36%

¹ Available Water is product of Announced Allocation and Total Allocation

² Table shows medium priority usage only.

Within Queensland's existing water infrastructure, there are significant quantities of unsold and unused water. The Queensland Bulk Water Opportunities Statement (QBWOS) presents a framework to ensure the optimal use of existing infrastructure and resources.

One of the key strategies in QBWOS is increasing the utilisation of water and existing infrastructure and this includes initiatives to support efficient water markets. QBWOS is being used to support government decision-making, to assist regional planners develop the water security elements of their work and to inform industry and other stakeholders about bulk water supply across the state.

b) The following table shows allocation usage data for individual SunWater irrigation schemes in 2016–17 and 2017–18 water years:

Irrigation Scheme	2016-17				2017-18			
	Total Water Entitlements (ML)	Available Water (ML)	Water Deliveries (ML)	Entitlements / Deliveries (%)	Total Water Entitlements (ML)	Available Water (ML)	Water Deliveries (ML)	Entitlements / Deliveries (%)
Barker-Barambah	31,361	36,767	17,529	55.9%	31,361	25,576	8,096	25.8%
Bowen Broken Rivers	5,676	5,676	476	8.4%	5,676	5,848	137	2.4%
Boyne River and Tarong	9,142	9,142	5,648	61.8%	9,142	9,142	3,765	41.2%
Bundaberg	199,305	253,314	127,801	64.1%	199,310	233,797	83,968	42.1%
Burdekin Haughton	635,212	661,007	502,176	79.1%	635,212	716,489	487,169	76.7%
Callide Valley	13,463	14,223	10,319	76.6%	13,463	13,877	10,138	75.3%
Chinchilla Weir	2,594	2,746	2,468	95.1%	2,534	2,665	1,029	40.6%
Cunnamulla	2,412	2,532	1,519	63.0%	2,412	2,412	1,901	78.8%
Dawson Valley	51,394	54,738	33,527	65.2%	51,394	52,410	48,609	94.6%
Eton	52,817	52,349	13,020	24.7%	52,817	52,339	19,033	36.0%
Lower Fitzroy	3,101	3,249	472	15.2%	3,101	3,252	369	11.9%
Lower Mary river	19,327	21,141	14,823	76.7%	19,327	21,377	5,889	30.5%
Macintyre Brook	17,112	15,690	5,817	34.0%	17,112	11,759	9,570	55.9%
Maranoa River	800	800	25	3.1%	800	800	14	1.8%
Mareeba Dimbulah	151,202	152,169	109,135	72.2%	151,202	151,558	87,585	57.9%
Nogoa Mackenzie	163,083	199,440	138,267	84.8%	163,083	218,644	144,814	88.8%
Pioneer River	47,390	57,130	4,928	10.4%	47,390	57,322	10,526	22.2%
Proserpine River	40,817	53,705	10,078	24.7%	40,817	54,860	16,055	39.3%
St George	71,770	80,165	75,313	104.9%	71,770	81,026	69,904	97.4%
Three Moon Creek	14,324	14,124	6,727	47.0%	14,124	14,124	4,629	32.8%
Upper Burnett	28,469	31,905	17,985	63.2%	28,319	31,740	21,567	76.2%
Upper Condamine	30,363	18,344	17,919	59.0%	30,363	2,205	1,975	6.5%
	1,591,134	1,740,356	1,115,972	70.1%	1,590,729	1,763,222	1,036,742	65.2%

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 4

asked on 2 JULY 2018

QUESTION:

In reference to page 6 service area description in the SDS, can the Minister outline the number of permits it granted in 2017-18 and expected in 2018-19 for:

- a) Mining - with a breakdown into resource types;
- b) Gas;
- c) Geothermal and carbon sequestration; and
- d) Storage facilities?

ANSWER:

In 2017-18 there were a total of 487 new resource authorities granted across the resource Acts administered by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.

This total is made of the following:

- a) Minerals and Coal grants:
 - 1 Exploration Permit for Coal (EPC)
 - 244 Exploration Permits for Minerals (EPM)
 - 6 Mineral Development Licences (MDL)
 - 94 Mining Claims (MC)
 - 13 coal mining leases
 - 67 mineral mining leases
- b) Petroleum and Gas grants:
 - 1 Data Acquisition Authority (DAA)
 - 7 Authorities to Prospect (ATP)
 - 17 petroleum leases
 - 6 Petroleum Survey Licences (PSL)
 - 6 pipeline licences
 - 24 Potential Commercial Areas (PCA)
- c) Geothermal Energy grants:
 - 1 Exploration Permit for Geothermal (EPG)
- d) Greenhouse Gas Storage grants:
 - Nil

It would be inappropriate to estimate the future grant numbers for 2018-19 due to the range of factors that may influence decision timeframes.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 5

asked on 2 JULY 2018

QUESTION:

In reference to page 2 item 1 in the "departmental objectives" of the SDS, can the Minister outline the following:

- a) The overall funding allocated to NRM groups in Queensland in 2018-19;
- b) The individual breakdown of funding going to each NRM organisation; and
- c) The individual breakdown of funding per project/program with recipient organisation?

ANSWER:

- a) Funding under the Natural Resource Investment Program (2018–2022) was announced on 13 July 2018. The overall funding allocated for the first round for 2018–19 is estimated to be up to \$8.7 million. A total of up to \$27.456 million was announced over the four years for the program. Full funding for 2018–19 will be finalised after NRM groups provide detailed workplans and budgets.
- b&c) A breakdown of indicative funding for first round announcements under the Natural Resource Investment Program for 2018–19 are shown in Table 1. These figures are subject to further detailed work to refine the scope of individual projects and associated budgets.

The government has committed to ensuring state-wide natural resource management project coverage. Applications have re-opened for regions that did not receive project funding in the first round. In addition, the regions that did not receive project funding have been allocated a project officer to assist with their application.

Table 1

Regional group	Indicative total for first round NRIP funding for 2018–19 (\$)
Burnett Mary Regional Group for NRM	1,084,694.00
Condamine Catchment NRM Corporation	100,000.00
Cape York Natural Resource Management	1,160,000.00
Desert Channels Queensland	200,000.00
Fitzroy Basin Association	200,266.00
Healthy Land and Water	553,902.80
Northern Gulf Resource Management Group	200,000.00

Regional group	Indicative total for first round NRIP funding for 2018–19 (\$)
NQ Dry Tropics	2,007,242.75
Queensland Murray-Darling Committee	100,000.00
Reef Catchments (Mackay Whitsunday Isaac)	915,015.00
NRM Regions Queensland	350,000.00
Southern Gulf NRM	200,000.00
South West Natural Resource Management	100,000.00
Terrain NRM	933,306.67
Torres Strait Regional Authority	684,070.00
Total	8,788,497.22

A breakdown of indicative funding for first round under the Natural Resource Investment Program for each project for 2018–2019 is shown in Table 2, and is subject to further work with the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy to refine the scope of individual projects and associated budgets.

Table 2

Natural Resource Management (NRM) Regional Body	Project	Indicative maximum total for first round NRIP funding for 2018–19 (\$)
Burnett Mary Regional Group for NRM	Burnett Mary Streambank and Wetland Recovery for Reef Water Quality	784,889.00
Burnett Mary Regional Group for NRM	Burnett Mary – Regional support for the Paddock to Reef program	100,000.00
Burnett Mary Regional Group for NRM	Burnett Mary – Regional Coordination and Evaluation	199,805.00
Condamine Catchment NRM Corporation LTD	Condamine Catchment NRM Corporation – Regional Coordination and Evaluation	100,000.00
Cape York Natural Resource Management	Cape York – Regional support for the Paddock to Reef program	100,000.00
Cape York Natural Resource Management	Cape York Natural Resource Management – Regional Coordination and Evaluation.	200,000.00
Cape York Natural Resource Management	Improving native vegetation and soil condition of grazing lands within the Joint Management Area	310,000.00
Cape York Natural Resource Management	Springvale Station West Normanby Distal Gully Demonstration Site – Normanby Basin	550,000.00
Desert Channels Queensland	Desert Channels Queensland – Regional Coordination and Evaluation	200,000.00
Fitzroy Basin Association	Fitzroy Basin Association – Regional support for the Paddock to Reef program	100,000.00

Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

Natural Resource Management (NRM) Regional Body	Project	Indicative maximum total for first round NRIP funding for 2018–19 (\$)
Fitzroy Basin Association	Fitzroy Basin Association – Regional Coordination and Evaluation	100,266.00
Healthy Land and Water	Healthy Land and Water – Regional Coordination and Evaluation	199,848.00
Healthy Land and Water	Improving adoption of best practice to improve soil health, land condition, water quality, through Grazing BMP in SEQ	354,054.80
Northern Gulf Resource Management Group	Northern Gulf Resources Management Group – Regional Coordination and Evaluation	200,000.00
NQ Dry Tropics	NQ Dry Tropics – Regional Coordination and Evaluation	142,748.00
NQ Dry Tropics	Linking Burdekin landholders to their frontage country for vegetation, soil and water quality gains	383,811.00
NQ Dry Tropics	Burdekin Dry Tropics NRM Region – Regional support for the Paddock to Reef program	97,888.75
NQ Dry Tropics	Reducing fine sediments by maintaining and restoring Burdekin stream banks and coastal wetlands	1,382,795.00
Queensland Murray-Darling Committee	Queensland Murray-Darling Committee – Regional Coordination and Evaluation	100,000.00
Reef Catchments (Mackay, Whitsunday, Isaac)	Reef Catchments (Mackay, Whitsunday, Isaac) – Regional Coordination and Evaluation	199,515.00
Reef Catchments(Mackay, Whitsunday, Isaac)	Reef Catchments – Regional support for the Paddock to Reef program	100,000.00
Reef Catchments(Mackay, Whitsunday, Isaac)	Addressing Priority Sub-catchment Water Quality Targets through Grazing Management Interventions	295,000.00
Reef Catchments(Mackay, Whitsunday, Isaac)	Improving the relative ecological condition of freshwater streams and wetlands in the Mackay Whitsundays	320,500.00
NRM Regions Queensland	NRMRQ Regional Coordination and Evaluation	200,000.00
NRM Regions Queensland	NRM Regions QLD Cross Regional Coordination – Regional support for the Paddock to Reef program	150,000.00
Southern Gulf NRM	Southern Gulf NRM – Regional Coordination and Evaluation	200,000.00
South West Natural Resource Management	South West Natural Resource Management – Regional Coordination and Evaluation	100,000.00
Terrain NRM	Upper Johnstone Integrated Project – Improving reef water quality by reducing sediment loss	454,000.00

Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

Natural Resource Management (NRM) Regional Body	Project	Indicative maximum total for first round NRIP funding for 2018–19 (\$)
Terrain NRM	Mossman Integrated Catchment Repair Project: building landscape resilience with farmers – for farmers	152,106.67
Terrain NRM	Wet Tropics – Regional support for the Paddock to Reef program	100,000.00
Terrain NRM	Terrain NRM – Regional Coordination and Evaluation	100,000.00
Terrain NRM	Many hands make light work – Wet Tropics partnerships for improving native vegetation condition	127,200.00
Torres Strait Regional Authority	Torres Strait Regional Authority – Regional Coordination and Evaluation Program	175,000.00
Torres Strait Regional Authority	Natural Resource Management, Engagement and Education in the Torres Strait Region	509,070.00
Total		8,788,497.22

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
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ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 6

asked on 2 JULY 2018

QUESTION:

On page 14 of the SDS, the Energy services budget was \$29 million for 2017/18 but the actual amount was more than double this figure. Can the Minister advise the reason for this increase?

ANSWER:

Additional funding was provided at mid-year fiscal and economic review for this Government to undertake initiatives to drive down electricity prices. Under the Affordable Energy Plan an additional \$70 million was provided over the next three years.

In 2017-18, programs (and associated expenditure) under the Affordable Energy Plan include:

- Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program, to help households improve their energy efficiency (\$20 million) and
- Interest Free Loan Scheme for Solar and Storage to drive the increased use of solar by enabling access to interest free loans and rebates for Queenslanders purchasing solar and battery systems (\$19 million).

These increases are offset by the deferral of funds into 2018-19 for the Regional Business Support Package (\$9 million).

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
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QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 7

asked on 2 JULY 2018

QUESTION:

In terms of the SDS page 8 Service Area highlights and the reference to the establishment of CleanCo, can the Minister indicate the cost associated with the establishment of this organisation, how the energy is being obtained and whether it is being built, owned and operated by the State?

ANSWER:

Queensland's new Clean Energy Generation Company - or CleanCo - will deliver on the government's objectives for a clean energy future, affordable electricity prices and growing investment and jobs.

Implementing CleanCo is a key plank in achieving the Queensland Renewable Energy Target (QRET) of 50 per cent renewable energy generation in Queensland by 2030.

CleanCo will support the delivery of 1000 megawatts of new renewable energy generation by 2025, by using a strategic portfolio of government-owned renewable and low-emissions energy generation assets to firm up intermittent renewable energy.

This will not only support growth in the Queensland renewable energy market but also create more competition in Queensland's wholesale electricity market and put downward pressure on electricity prices.

Our existing government-owned coal-fired generators, Stanwell and CS Energy, will continue to be commercially viable with the introduction of CleanCo and will have an important role in maintaining a secure and reliable electricity supply during the transition to more renewable generation.

A Treasury-led project team is well advanced in planning for CleanCo operations. This process will allow for the determination of costs and inform CleanCo structure and implementation options for the government's consideration.

Ultimately though, a Chair and Chief Executive Officer will be appointed as a priority, to ensure the new business is commercially viable and delivers on its objectives of increased competition, downward pressure on wholesale prices and advancing our transition to renewables.

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ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 8

asked on 2 JULY 2018

QUESTION:

In terms of SDS page 16 Departmental Expenses can the Minister advise how much was spent on Departmental entertainment for the 2017/18 financial year and the nature of that entertainment?

ANSWER:

Entertainment expenditure for the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy in 2017-18 totalled \$25,756. The majority of the expenditure was incurred on expenses related to food and drink spent on employees and associates, with no alcohol provided.

Department	2017-18 \$	2016-17 \$	2015-16 \$	2014-15 \$	2013-14 \$
Natural Resources, Mines and Energy	25,756	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Natural Resources and Mines	n/a	23,426	12,655	22,510	23,101

Notes:

- The 2017-18 Natural Resources, Mines and Energy total includes 12 months of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines and six months (January 2018-June 2018) of the Energy and Water Supply functions from the abolished Department of Energy and Water Supply.
- July 2017 – December 2017 expenditure relating to the Department of Energy and Water Supply totalled \$3416.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 9

asked on 2 JULY 2018

QUESTION:

In relation to Service Area 2 Core functions (SDS page 8), bearing in mind the short to long term demand forecasts, will the Minister outline if the State has sufficient generating capacity to maintain a secure and reliable supply of electricity to Queensland households and businesses into the future?

ANSWER:

The Australian Energy Market Operator produces a long-term energy demand forecast as part of its Electricity Statement of Opportunities (ESOO). The ESOO currently predicts that there will be no unserved energy in the Queensland region of the National Electricity Market for the entire ten-year forecast period.

The Australian Energy Market Operator also produces the Medium Term Projected Assessment of System Adequacy (MTPASA) on a weekly basis. This forecast provides an assessment of the level of energy security for the seven-day to two-year period. The MTPASA currently shows no low reserve condition across the forecast period.

These forecasts currently assume minimal contribution from renewable generation. Queensland's pipeline of renewable energy projects is strong, and will continue to be supported under the government's target of 50 per cent renewable energy generation by 2030.

The Queensland Government has taken steps to ensure the state's energy system is secure and reliable by bringing Swanbank E Power Station back online, as part of the Powering Queensland Plan. This ensured that an additional 385 megawatts of capacity was available during the summer of 2018. This was only possible because of the decision to retain our energy assets in government hands.

Continued development of renewable generation will enhance the level of supply in Queensland which, when combined with our young and efficient fleet of coal-fired generators, will ensure the state continues to experience secure and reliable electricity supply for the foreseeable future.

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ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 10

asked on 2 JULY 2018

QUESTION:

Given the record dividend payments being received from the Government Owned Corporations as outlined in the Budget papers (BP2, page 118-120), can the Minister advise what proportion of the GOC dividends are being used to directly reduce electricity prices for Queensland consumers, with reference to

- a) \$1.78 billion in 2018/19;
- b) \$1.627 billion in 2019/20;
- c) \$1.491 billion in 2020/21; and
- d) \$1.341 billion in 2021/22 (reported separately by year)?

ANSWER:

I note that the numbers referred to in the question on notice include dividends, tax equivalent and competitive neutrality fee payments received from government-owned corporations (GOCs) (BP2, page 118–120, Table 8.3, 8.4 and 8.5).

A key benefit of the Palaszczuk Government's commitment not to privatise our income generating assets means we have kept control in the hands of Queenslanders. As part of this, the government receives dividend payments from our GOCs which can be reinvested back as part of consolidated revenue into the Queensland community for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

The Palaszczuk Government is leveraging our ownership of electricity assets to pay forward over \$1 billion dollars in both 2018–19 and 2019–20 to stabilise electricity prices and assist with energy affordability. This means that all of the dividends or profits received from providing energy in Queensland will be invested back into energy affordability measures for electricity consumers.

The additional revenue received from increased generation sales into the National Energy Market goes towards the funding of essential services for all Queenslanders including Queensland energy customers such as hospitals, schools and roads.

Going forward I can assure the Committee that the Queensland Government will remain committed to stable electricity prices and will continue to take action to ensure Queenslanders can continue to receive affordable, secure and sustainable supply of electricity.

The government's \$2 billion Affordable Energy Plan has the objectives of guiding the state through short-term and long-term challenges in the market, and placing downward pressure on electricity prices in regional Queensland and South East Queensland.

The Affordable Energy Plan works hand-in-hand with our previously announced initiatives in the Powering Queensland Plan, which is our key strategy to ensure Queensland's energy system is secure and reliable.

The Affordable Energy Plan features \$300 million of new initiatives includes a landmark commitment to keep electricity prices for typical household and small business customers below inflation on average over the next two years.

Under the Affordable Energy Plan, the government is providing a rebate of \$50 per year for the next two years to all Queensland households. Customers started receiving their first rebate from 30 April 2018, bringing significant savings for households moving into the winter months.

The Affordable Energy Plan also introduces a new retail product for customers in regional Queensland, called EasyPay Rewards. This will provide a rebate of \$75 for households and \$120 for small businesses that register with Ergon Energy and agree to pay their bills on time via direct debit, and which receive weekly, fortnightly or monthly electronic bills.

The Powering Queensland Plan outlines actions that will:

- Provide electricity price relief by investing \$771 million to cover the cost of the Solar Bonus Scheme, this action is expected to limit the bill increase for a typical regional household customer in 2017–18 to around 3.3 per cent and place downward pressure on prices in 2018–19 and 2019–20;
- Providing bidding direction to Stanwell, along with returning Swanbank E to service, which have acted to suppress the price volatility and extreme prices we experienced in early 2017;
- Deliver a \$386 million Powering North Queensland Plan to strengthen and diversify the north's energy supply.

These actions of the government are clearly working as demonstrated by the Queensland Competition Authority's (QCA) recent pricing determination.

According to the QCA's Final Determination, from 1 July 2018, the electricity bill for a typical regional household on Tariff 11 will reduce by 1.3 per cent (\$20) while a typical small business on Tariff 20 will reduce by 3.4 per cent (\$86). Large businesses will also see bill decreases of between 2.6 per cent and 3.5 per cent, while bills for customers on transitional tariffs, including farmers and irrigators, will remain at 2017–18 levels.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
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ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 11

asked on 2 JULY 2018

QUESTION:

With reference to pages 3 and 19 of the SDS, will the Minister please detail how the Palaszczuk Government is continuing to work with other levels of government in aiding the sustainable management of water in the Queensland Murray Darling Basin Catchment?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government is continuing to work to ensure that the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin is managed sustainably and for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

Queensland's Warrego Paroo Nebine plan which commenced in 2016 is the only water plan in place that has been accredited by the Commonwealth.

In April this year, I released draft water plans covering the remainder of the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin – the Condamine Balonne and the Border Rivers Moonie draft water plans.

The consultation period has now closed for these draft plans and input is being reviewed prior to the plans being finalised later this year.

The draft plans build on the success of prior plans and are informed by extensive consultation with stakeholder groups including water users, Traditional Owners, environment and industry groups, local governments, Commonwealth agencies and New South Wales.

The draft plans are informed by the latest water monitoring information as well as social, cultural, environmental and economic assessments. They have also been developed to meet the sustainability requirements of the Queensland Water Act and the Murray Darling Basin Plan - including sustainable diversion limits.

The draft plans seek to build economic opportunities, expanding existing water markets through the conversion of existing water licences to tradable water allocations, while also identifying reserves of unallocated water that can be released if water trading is not an option.

The Palaszczuk Government has played a key role in driving the Northern Basin Review and the resulting amendments to the Basin Plan that reduce the impact of water recovery on some of Queensland's most vulnerable, water-dependent communities, such as St George and Dirranbandi. These common-sense amendments have also liberated up to \$180 Million of Australian Government funding for complementary community and environmental projects across the Northern Basin.

The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy has a renewed focus on transparent water metering, monitoring and compliance as a part of the recently announced Rural Water Management Program. This program will see a significant investment in new systems and procedures that are designed to ensure that all stakeholders can have confidence that their water supplies are secure, sustainable and being fairly managed.

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ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 12

asked on 2 JULY 2018

QUESTION:

In reference to page 8 of the SDS, can the Minister please update the committee on the current status of the ethanol mandate?

ANSWER:

Queensland's biobased petrol mandate has stimulated significant growth in ethanol sales since it commenced on 1 January 2017. Sales of E10—the most popular ethanol-blended petrol grade—increased by more than 76 per cent in the two years to March 2018 quarter.

Based on reported sales volumes for the first quarter of 2018, liable fuel retailers achieved an average of 2.6 per cent ethanol sales. This is up from 2.5 per cent for the previous quarter, and up from 1.5 per cent ethanol sales in early 2016 before the Queensland biofuels mandate commenced.

The fuel industry has upgraded a large number of sites to make E10 more widely available. There are now more than 640 service stations in Queensland selling E10—an increase of more than 280 sites since early 2016—with additional site conversions expected in the coming 12 months.

This data indicates that the Queensland ethanol mandate has been successful in growing the market for biofuels. This has provided assurance to biofuels producers and created a positive environment for new investment as part of a cleaner, greener future for Queensland. From 1 July 2018, the mandate increased to 4 per cent, in recognition of the commitment to ongoing, long-term growth and development in the sector.

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ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 13

asked on 2 JULY 2018

QUESTION:

In reference to page 6 of the SDS, will the Minister please update the committee on the Government's response to recommendations regarding Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis from both the Select Committee and the Monash Report?

ANSWER:

By the end of July 2018, the government will have completed 61 of the 68 recommendations of the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis (CWP) Select Committee. This includes implementing the recommendations from Monash University, as these recommendations were adopted by the select committee.

To action the select committee's recommendations about reforms to the structure of the safety and health regulator and its funding model, the government established a dedicated, independent project management office.

In addition, last year, amendments were made to workers' compensation legislation to introduce a medical examination process for retired or former coal workers concerned that they may have CWP or a mining occupational dust lung disease. These amendments allow for the re-opening of claims for workers with pneumoconiosis if their disease progresses.

A number of other operational activities are in train to give effect to the select committee's recommendations—for example, the coal mining inspectorate has focussed regulatory activity on the control and monitoring of respirable dust. Industry has made significant progress in reducing dust levels in Queensland coal mines to within regulated limits. Through this regulatory activity, the government remains committed to the prevention of mine dust lung disease.

Further, the Queensland Government has delivered all 18 recommendations of the independent Monash University review of the respiratory component of the Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme. The actions delivered include:

- regulatory amendments to provide:
 - i) compulsory chest X-rays and lung function test;
 - ii) medicals for retiring and former coal miners and
 - iii) mandatory reporting of coal mine dust lung diseases;
- a register of qualified and experienced medical providers;
- a clinical pathway guideline to ensure consistency in the referral and diagnosis of coal mine dust lung disease;
- a training program for doctors undertaking health assessments for Queensland coal mine workers;
- new standards for spirometry and chest X-ray imaging;
- electronic portal to submit and request coal mine worker health assessments;

- changes to the health assessment process to better capture work history and respiratory health information;
- information for workers including online videos and pocket-book guides, with orders taken for over 13,000 copies;
- B-reader training conducted in Brisbane by experts from the US Government's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, including Dr Bob Cohen;
- engagement of Lungscreen Australia to provide local B-reading services and
- development of an audit framework to ensure compliance.

As recommended by Monash University, another review will be commissioned next year to ensure that the Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme continues to perform according to best practice.

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ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 14

asked on 2 JULY 2018

QUESTION:

With reference to page 3 of the SDS, will the Minister please outline for the committee how the State Government is providing fast, reliable and secure Queensland's Title Registry operations and the benefit this will provide to Queenslanders?

ANSWER:

The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy's Titles Registry, in line with its vision for a digital future, offers stakeholders a range of electronic business options to streamline conveyancing practices and realise substantial processing efficiencies.

The Titles Registry is the point of truth for authoritative land and water title information in Queensland. Annually, more than four million title information searches are delivered to customers, with some 99 per cent conducted online in real time. Stakeholders appreciate this fast and reliable access to accurate title related information, for well-informed decisions in property dealings and commercial ventures.

With the majority of title dealings and forms able to be processed through the Automated Titles System's electronic lodgement facility, hundreds of authorised professionals and industry customers are utilising this reliable and secure interface to efficiently manage their clients' conveyancing and title dealings in-house.

Most recently, the Titles Registry broadened the types of title dealings that can be completed through the evolving national electronic conveyancing digital platform. Collaborative work is continuing with other jurisdictions, and in consultation with key stakeholders, on further opportunities to make a range of titling practices nationally consistent and to align processes and requirements where appropriate.

In underwriting the Torrens freehold title guarantee provided through the titling system, the government provides Queenslanders with certainty and security for their registered interests, including protections against loss due to fraud.

Recent interstate incidents of a conveyancer's email being hacked has highlighted the need for all parties involved in the conveyancing chain, regardless of whether they conduct business electronically or on paper, to remain diligent and have in place robust cyber security measures to help ensure their clients' interests and funds are safeguarded against unscrupulous and fraudulent activities by criminals.

Key stakeholders including the Queensland Law Society, Property Exchange Australia Ltd (PEXA)—which is the current electronic lodgement network operator for national electronic conveyancing—and the Titles Registry are all working to ensure ongoing security and confidence in the conveyancing process.

The Titles Registry undertakes regular security penetration testing of its Automated Titles System and the department conforms to the Queensland Government's cyber security standard—Information Standard 18.

PEXA is introducing measures to further safeguard all transactions conducted on its platform. This includes introducing a consumer guarantee, strengthening a range of system access and security controls, and engaging with its subscribers to help ensure they uphold the highest possible security standards.

The Queensland Law Society is actively warning its members about fraud risk and providing information on risk mitigation strategies and cyber security measures to help ensure the funds and interests of clients are protected.

The department will continue to monitor conveyancing processes and developments interstate, and will work collaboratively with stakeholders to ensure best efforts are made to protect Queenslanders' rights and interests and minimise fraud risk.

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ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 15

asked on 2 JULY 2018

QUESTION:

With reference to page 3 and 4 of the SDS, can the Minister advise how Queensland continues to play a leading role in resolving Native Title Claims, including how many determinations have been made in the previous 12 months?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is committed to resolving native title claims by negotiation, rather than litigation. Queensland has a strong record of settling these matters through consent determinations agreed to by the parties. Our state leads all other jurisdictions in the number of native title claims resolved.

During the 2017–18 reporting period, nine native title claimant applications were settled. These were – Wulli Wulli People; Ankamuthi People and Ankamuthi #2; Northern Cape York #3; the Ballai, Gurang, Gooreng, Gooreng and Taribelang Bunda (formerly known as “PCCC”); the Bar Barrum Rivers Claim; Bar Barrum #9, Mandandanji People and the Nywagai People’s claim.

As evidence of Queensland’s practical, pragmatic and cost effective approach to native title, all of these nine claims were settled by agreement, avoiding the need for long and expensive trials.

The PCCC claim was notable for its size and complexity with approximately 90,000 individual land parcels involved. This was a matter that was lodged, in its earliest form in 2001, was amended several times, and was eventually resolved after intensive negotiations between the parties. In contrast, the most recently resolved consent determination – the Nywagai People’s claim near Cardwell – was finalised in April 2018, and was effectively completed in just under three years.

Each native title claim is different, and ultimately native title was found to exist in eight of the nine consent determinations. The single matter where native title was determined not to exist was the Mandandanji claim in South West Queensland.

Since the *Native Title Act 1993* commenced, Queensland has resolved a total of 144 native title claims with only 12 having to be decided by trial in the Federal Court.

Currently, there are 59 active native title claimant applications in Queensland awaiting resolution.

Often consent determinations are accompanied by Indigenous Land Use Agreements that are entered into by the parties voluntarily.

The agreements can provide certainty for practical solutions to land management or future land use issues that will meet the aspirations of government agencies and native title claimants alike.

The agreements that result will be secure, enduring and binding on the parties.

Twenty-five years after native title legislation was enacted in Australia, the area remains complex, time-consuming and the law continues to evolve. But the two basic fundamentals for recognising the continued existence of native title remain.

First, the state must be satisfied that it is dealing with the right people for the land and waters under claim, and that those people have maintained a continuing connection to the claim area.

Second, native title may have been extinguished over the years by the state or Commonwealth granting other interests in the land, or by other actions of government, so the land tenure research to establish those facts needs to be undertaken.

An important outcome of a consent determination is the acknowledgment by the parties – primarily the state and the native title applicants – of the continuing existence of native title in some form.

This, and the obvious benefits to everyone of reduced costs, are the key advantages of the negotiated native title outcomes to which this government is committed.

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ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 16

asked on 2 JULY 2018

QUESTION:

Can the Minister update the committee on the work being done to modernise and improve the State Land And Trees Study (SLATS)?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government announced in the 2018-19 budget \$3.9 million, over two years, to establish a scientific program to support an enhanced Statewide Landcover and Trees Study (SLATS), to identify and report on the condition and extent of regrowth vegetation and inform habitat conservation.

After alarming increases in tree clearing rates, reaching 395 000 in the 2015-16 reporting period, rates not seen since the mid-2000s, we announced as part of our vegetation management election commitments that we would improve the mapping of protected vegetation by putting science in charge, and enhancing the reporting of the SLATS and its release through the involvement of the Queensland Herbarium.

The program will develop the scientific methods and data to inform a reporting framework that provides comprehensive assessment, mapping, accounting and monitoring of woody vegetation, including regrowth and improving understanding of vegetation condition, biodiversity and carbon values.

The funding over two years will enable the Department of Environment and Science to establish an enhanced scientific program, comprising four key state-wide tasks:

1. Establishing a baseline map of non-remnant woody vegetation extent;
2. Enhanced woody extent change monitoring to account for gains (i.e. regrowth);
3. Integration of the woody extent map and regrowth monitoring with existing SLATS and
4. Development of a vegetation condition map for Queensland including identification of areas of high conservation value.

This funded election commitment responds to the widespread community concern that tree clearing rates in Queensland have reached unsustainable levels, impacting on climate change, putting at risk native wildlife and the Great Barrier Reef.

This initiative builds on the existing scientific knowledge and capacity in both the Department of Environment and Science and the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. It capitalises on the Queensland Government's recent investment in systematic satellite-based monitoring systems and high resolution satellite imagery.

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QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 17

asked on 2 JULY 2018

QUESTION:

With respect to page 4 of the SDS, what programs, services, grants and other allocations have been made available to Queensland's 14 Regional Natural Resource Management Groups?

ANSWER:

In the 2017–18 State Budget, the Palaszczuk Government provided funding of \$42.3 million for a new natural resource management investment program for the years 2018–2022. Complementary funding was also made available from the \$75 million Reef Water Quality funding.

In April 2018, the Natural Resource Investment Program was opened for applications by Natural Resource Management groups.

This included funding for:

- Natural resource projects: projects that are able to demonstrate a contribution to Natural Resource Investment Program priorities based on evidence.
- Reef projects: reef water quality projects in priority catchments with a focus on sub-catchment system repair projects and practice change to improve soil management and ground cover management.
- Paddock to Reef: to continue the Paddock to Reef Integrated Monitoring, Modelling and Reporting Program.
- Regional coordination and evaluation: for the retention and building of organisational capacity; developing monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement models; and building and maintaining strategic partnerships.

Following an assessment of applications, the first round of funding was announced on 13 July 2018. This allocated funds of up to \$27.45 million to Natural Resource Management groups toward sustainable management of Queensland's land and water resources and reef water quality outcomes. The majority of this funding was for four-year projects with six month to one year funding for regional coordination and evaluation where projects were still being refined.

All 14 regional Natural Resource Management groups received funding in this first announcement, with funding also allocated to the statewide body. Distribution of funding announced on 13 July 2018 was:

Natural Resource Management Group	Funding
Burnett-Mary Regional Group for NRM	\$2.98M
Cape York Natural Resource Management	\$3.95M

Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

Natural Resource Management Group	Funding
Condamine Catchment NRM Corporation	\$0.10M
Desert Channels Queensland	\$0.20M
Fitzroy Basin Association	\$0.50M
Healthy Land and Water	\$1.60M
Northern Gulf Resource Management Group	\$0.20M
NQ Dry Tropics	\$6.52M
Queensland Murray-Darling Committee	\$0.10M
Reef Catchments (Mackay, Whitsunday, Isaac)	\$3.64M
South West Natural Resource Management	\$0.10M
Southern Gulf NRM	\$0.20M
Terrain NRM	\$4.40M
Torres Strait Regional Authority	\$2.16M
NRM Regions Queensland	\$0.80M

A second round of announcements will be made following the refinement of project applications with a number of natural resource management groups.

Additionally, further funding is proposed for release later this year, for innovative natural resource management projects. This funding will be targeted toward innovative practices and techniques to overcome gaps or limitations in existing methods.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 18

asked on 2 JULY 2018

QUESTION:

In reference to page 2 of the SDS, can the Minister update the committee on the State Government's preparedness strategies and recovery efforts after ex-TC Nora?

ANSWER:

Tropical Cyclone Nora crossed the Queensland coastline north of Pormpuraaw, in the Gulf of Carpentaria, in the early hours of the morning on 25 March 2018. Tropical Cyclone Nora continued inland before tracking back towards the coastline, intensifying into a Category 2 before crossing back into the Gulf of Carpentaria, north of Kowanyama, where it continued to track west before downgrading to a tropical low, bringing with it strong winds and heavy rains which affected a number of North Queensland communities.

The State Disaster Management Plan identifies Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME) as the lead agency for electricity, liquid fuels, gas, reticulated water supply and dam safety, with regulator responsibilities for entities in these sectors, including Seqwater, SunWater, Powerlink and Energy Queensland.

DNRME, Seqwater, SunWater, Powerlink and Energy Queensland have response procedures in place to respond to emergency events. These response procedures are in support of the state level whole-of-government response and activation of the State Disaster Management Plan.

In Queensland, the coordination of the state level whole-of-government operational capability during a disaster response occurs through the State Disaster Coordination Centre. During this event, DNRME, Seqwater, SunWater, Powerlink and Energy Queensland were prepared and ready to respond to any impacts to their assets, with DNRME and Energy Queensland having representation at the State Disaster Coordination Centre and assisting in the coordinated response for any energy issues.

The extent of Energy Queensland electricity network damage in the direct path of the cyclone was severe, with approximately 500 Energy Queensland regional customers, in the communities of Pormpuraaw, Kowanyama and Mapoon, without power.

Energy Queensland deployed a total of 30 crews to impacted communities of Mapoon, Kowanyama, and Pormpuraaw, whilst there were an additional 150 crews on stand-by across the region if required. Vehicles were borrowed from local councils to transport crews, supported by one helicopter and 2 All-Terrain Vehicles. A Dash 8 aircraft was utilised to move equipment, generators and spares. Despite challenging weather and access issues to these isolated communities, all power had been restored to customers by 29 March 2018. This is a great achievement, with many staff working in difficult conditions.

Energy Queensland continually provided proactive safety messages to both traditional and social media, prior to and following the cyclone, as well as operational updates in relation to network restoration. Media and customer sentiment throughout the event was very positive, with stakeholders acknowledging the significant access challenges and appreciating the efforts by crews to restore supply as quickly and safely as possible.

There were no other impacts to Powerlink, Seqwater or SunWater networks.

DNRME, Seqwater, SunWater, Powerlink and Energy Queensland are continuing to prepare for disaster and emergency events, including the next cyclone season.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 19

asked on 2 JULY 2018

QUESTION:

With reference to page 8 of the SDS, can the Minister please advise how the Palaszczuk Government is assisting Queenslanders with their cost of living expenses?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to helping Queenslanders reduce their energy costs and are delivering on our commitment to keep changes in electricity prices for a typical household below inflation on average over the next two years.

In 2018–19, \$196 million will be spent providing the \$341 Electricity Rebate for eligible households with a Pensioner Concession Card, Queensland Seniors Card, Commonwealth Health Care Card, Veterans' Affairs Gold Card or hold asylum seeker status.

We understand that any kind of bill relief makes a difference, particularly to low-income households. That is why we will deliver the initiatives under our \$2 billion Affordable Energy Plan.

Our support includes crediting every household's electricity bill with two annual \$50 dividend payments. More than 1.9 million households across Queensland are well on their way to receiving the first of their two payments. Recipients include households in communities using card-operated electricity meters, such as in Cape York and the Torres Strait. Homeowners and tenants who are billed for their power by their landlord or body corporate also benefit from the \$50 dividend credit. The \$50 payment will be automatically applied to customers' accounts again in 2019, without the need for households to apply.

Other initiatives under the Affordable Energy Plan include a \$4 million expansion of the Energy Savvy Families Program, providing regional families with a digital meter, monthly billing and energy efficiency information. The Plan also includes a \$21 million program offering no interest loans and rebates for Queenslanders purchasing rooftop solar and battery systems, and a \$4 million trial to assist landlords and tenants to share the value of installing solar systems.

As part of our Affordable Energy Plan, the government will also implement state-wide education activities to ensure Queenslanders are aware of available energy concessions and rebates that may assist them, including the \$341 Electricity Rebate.

The Affordable Energy Plan is only possible because of the Queensland public's ownership of the state's power assets. This has allowed us to reinvest the dividends we receive from these businesses to make electricity more affordable, such as committing \$771 million to remove the cost of the Solar Bonus Scheme from electricity bills.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 20

asked on 2 JULY 2018

QUESTION:

In reference to page 6 of the SDS, can the Minister provide an update on progress in addressing the State's abandoned mines legacy?

ANSWER:

Continuing the government's commitment to address abandoned mines legacies with the \$42 million funding for the Abandoned Mine Lands Program over five years which I announced in the 2016-17 budget, work undertaken in 2017-18 included:

- ongoing decommissioning and clean-up of the former Linc Energy site, with removal of approximately 260 000 litres of liquid waste, and continuing to facilitate site investigations by the Department of Environment and Science;
- ongoing water treatment and management at the Mount Morgan mine site, reducing the pit water level by more than 3.4 metres since January 2013;
- installing a solar-powered seepage pump-back system at the disclaimed Mount Chalmers mine to control contaminated water, ahead of further works in 2018-19;
- implementing the first stage of remediating the Target Gully tailings dam in the historic mining community of Irvinebank;
- ongoing development of a site decommissioning and remediation plan for the disclaimed Collingwood Tin mine west of Cooktown, in consultation with Traditional Owners and other stakeholders;
- making safe 63 legacy mining shafts and associated features in the historic mining communities of Charters Towers and Gympie;
- development of a new database for the larger legacy and terminated mines to support assessment and planning for the Abandoned Mine Lands Program and
- preliminary desktop assessments of the 107 largest abandoned mine sites to inform a prioritised program list.

As part of the government's reforms to drive improved rehabilitation outcomes for Queensland, a discussion paper was released in May this year, describing the Queensland Government's management objectives for abandoned mine sites, which are to:

- improve risk management processes and prioritisation to ensure efficient and transparent allocation of resources to the management of legacy sites;

- improve legislative and regulatory frameworks to assist the Queensland Government and industry to re-commercialise, re-purpose or, failing that, remediate sites and
- revise classification of mining disturbances to provide a clearer public understanding that there are approximately 120 legacy and terminated mines, comparable in size and scale to mines of today, versus about 15 000 small low-impact historical mining features, such as shallow surface workings and small open shafts.

A second discussion paper, also released in May, contains reform ideas for the management of mines in care and maintenance, disclaiming of resource projects and change of control for resource authorities.

These reforms will strengthen the resource tenure management framework, and reduce the likelihood of projects being abandoned and of the associated rehabilitation liability falling to the state.

Funding derived from the proposed new financial assurance framework will provide the Abandoned Mine Lands Program with improved capability to address risks associated with disclaimed, terminated and legacy mines in the future.

Put simply, our objective is to re-commercialise, re-purpose or remediate abandoned mines to ensure they are safe, secure, durable and, where feasible, productive.

Correspondence

	Correspondence
1.	Letter from the Leader of the Opposition dated 22 June 2018
2.	Letter from the Member for Noosa dated 28 June 2018
3.	Letter from the Member for Mirani dated 12 July 2018
4.	Letter from the Member for Maiwar dated 18 July 2018
5.	Letter from the Leader of the Opposition dated 20 July 2018
6.	Medical Certificate for Mr Marc Levy dated 24 July 2018
7.	Letter from the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning dated 24 July 2018
8.	Letter from the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning dated 1 August 2018
9.	Letter from the Member for Burleigh dated 1 August 2018
10.	Letter from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries dated 6 August 2018



Deb Frecklington MP

Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Minister for Trade

22 June 2018

State Development, Natural Resources and
Agricultural Industry Development Committee
Attention: Mr Chris Whiting MP, Chair

By email: SDNRAIDC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Whiting

I'm writing in relation to the Committee's consideration of the 2018/19 portfolio budget estimates.

Pursuant to section 181(e) of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly, I seek leave for the following Members to attend the public estimates hearing of the Committee, scheduled for Wednesday, 25 July 2018:

- Deb Frecklington MP, Member for Nanango
- Tim Mander MP, Member for Everton
- Jarrod Bleijie MP, Member for Kawana
- Andrew Powell MP, Member for Glass House
- Dale Last MP, Member for Burdekin
- Michael Hart MP, Member for Burleigh
- Tony Perrett MP, Member for Gympie

Should you have any queries, please contact Peter Coulson of my office.

Yours sincerely

DEB FRECKLINGTON MP
Leader of the Opposition
Shadow Minister for Trade
Member for Nanango

CC: Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, Mr Pat Weir MP

Sandy Bolton MP

Member for Noosa



28th June 2018

Chris Whiting MP
Chair of the State Development
Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee

Dear Mr Whiting,

I am writing in relation to the committee's consideration of the 2018/19 portfolio budget estimates. Pursuant to section 181(e) of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly, I seek leave to attend and ask questions at the public estimates hearing of the committee, scheduled for 25th July 2018.

Yours faithfully

SANDY BOLTON MP
Member for Noosa





Stephen Andrew MP

Member for Mirani

12 July 2018

State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Chair,

In accordance with Standing Order 181(e) I seek leave to participate in the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee public hearing questioning the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries regarding the proposed expenditures for their portfolio areas on 25th July 2018.

Sincerely

MP Stephen Andrew

Member for Mirani

MICHAEL BERKMAN MP

Queensland Greens Member for Maiwar



18 July 2018

Mr Chris Whiting MP

Member for Bancroft

Chair of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee

By email: SDNRAIDC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Request for leave to appear and ask questions at 2018-19 budget estimates hearings

Dear Mr Whiting,

Chris

I am writing in relation to the upcoming budget estimates hearing of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee, scheduled for 25 July 2018.

I seek leave of the Committee under standing order 181(e) to attend and ask questions at this hearing.

Kind regards,

Michael Berkman MP

www.michaelberkman.com.au

1/49 Station Road, Indooroopilly • PO Box 423, Indooroopilly Centre QLD 4068

P: 07 3737 4100 • E: maiwar@parliament.qld.gov.au



Deb Frecklington MP

Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Minister for Trade

20 July 2018

State Development, Natural Resources and
Agricultural Industry Development Committee
Attention: Mr Chris Whiting MP, Chair

By email: SDNRAIDC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Whiting

Further to my letter dated 22 June, I'm again writing in relation to the Committee's consideration of the 2018/19 portfolio budget estimates.

Pursuant to section 181(e) of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly, I seek leave for the following Member to attend the public estimates hearing of the Committee, scheduled for Wednesday, 25 July 2018:

- John-Paul Langbroek MP, Member for Surfers Paradise

Should you have any queries, please contact Peter Coulson of my office.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deb Frecklington".

DEB FRECKLINGTON MP
Leader of the Opposition
Shadow Minister for Trade
Member for Nanango

CC: Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, Mr Pat Weir MP

Dr Scott Hedley
M.B.B.S

Medical Certificate

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

Mr Marc James Levy

IS RECEIVING MEDICAL TREATMENT AND FOR THE PERIOD

Tuesday, 24 July 2018 TO Friday, 27 July 2018 INCLUSIVE

He WILL BE UNFIT TO CONTINUE his USUAL OCCUPATION

This Certificate was completed on 24/7/2018

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S Hedley', written over a faint circular stamp.

Dr Scott Hedley



The Hon. Cameron Dick MP
Minister for State Development, Manufacturing,
Infrastructure and Planning

Our ref: OUT18/5139

24 July 2018

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Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15009 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7200
Email statedevelopment@ministerial.qld.gov.au
www.dsdmip.qld.gov.au

Mr Chris Whiting, MP
Member for Bancroft
Chair
State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee

Email: bancroft@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Whiting

Chris,

I wish to clarify the response for the pre-hearing Question on Notice 8 tabled this morning. Following tabling, I have been advised by my department that a transposition error occurred within the department when finalising the response, and accordingly the table forming part of the response on page 2 was incorrect.

I have included an amended response to Question on Notice 8 to correct the errors.

Please convey my apologies to the committee members for any inconvenience.

If you have any questions about my advice to you, please contact my office on (07) 3719 7200 or email statedevelopment@ministerial.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

CAMERON DICK MP
Minister for State Development, Manufacturing,
Infrastructure and Planning

Enc

cc Committee Secretariat State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural
Industry Development Committee
sdnraidc@parliament.qld.gov.au

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2018 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 8

asked on 02 July 2018

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 12 - measure of stakeholder satisfaction with accessibility and transparency - will the Minister provide (in table format, per financial year) a detailed breakdown of the Department's number of customer complaints; the timeliness of the response; whether the complaint was substantiated or unsubstantiated; and whether any action resulted from the complaint for 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18?

ANSWER:

The Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (the department) is committed to actively responding to complaints from customers. Feedback from customer complaints provides valuable information which contributes to the department's ongoing service improvements.

Each customer complaint receives a personalised response, including those that have been received in relation to other government agencies.

When misdirected complaints are received by the department, customers are provided with clear advice on how to contact the responsible agency.

When customer complaints are unsubstantiated the customer receives a response explaining why that is the case and the customer's review rights.

When customer complaints are substantiated the department advises the customer and takes appropriate action. Examples include: issuing apologies, reconsidering or reviewing decisions, resolving technical errors such as website problems, and correcting inaccurate records.

The table below provides the statistical breakdown of complaints received and outcomes for 2016–17 and 2017–18. These statistics are published annually on the department's website in accordance with Section 219A of the *Public Service Act 2008*.

Results prior to 2016–17 are not comparable due to legislative changes therefore cannot be accurately reported on the same basis.

	2016–17 ¹	2017–18 ²
Number of customer complaints received (excluding misdirected complaints referred to other agencies as appropriate)	32	35
Number of Substantiated customer complaints	3	5
Number of Unsubstantiated customer complaints	29	30
Timeliness of response ³	88%	81%

¹ figures for former Department of State Development

² figures for former Department of State Development to December 2017 and current Department of State Development, Manufacturing and Planning from January 2018 onwards

³ percentage of customer complaints responded to within the department's service standard of 15 working days



The Hon. Cameron Dick MP
Minister for State Development, Manufacturing,
Infrastructure and Planning

- 1 AUG 2018

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Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15009 City East
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Telephone +61 7 3719 7200
Email statedevelopment@ministerial.qld.gov.au
www.dsdmip.qld.gov.au

Mr Chris Whiting MP
Member for Bancroft
Chair
State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee

Email: Chris.Whiting@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Whiting

Chris,

Please accept my thanks to you, the Committee members and the Secretariat for your examination of my portfolio's budget papers during the *Consideration of 2018/2019 portfolio budget estimates* hearing on 25 July 2018.

Although it was not raised during the department's scheduled hearing, I note that the Committee requested information about complaints made to the department (Question on Notice No.8). Following the hearing, officials within my portfolio suggested that it may be of interest to the committee to be made aware of complaint statistics in relation to other reporting entities within my portfolio.

I can advise that for the 2016–17 and 2017–18 financial year, customer complaint numbers recorded in the complaint management systems for statutory bodies, statutory authorities or commercialised business units are as follows:

- Building Queensland – nil
- Economic Development Queensland – 42 in 2016–17 and 16 in 2017–18
- Queensland Reconstruction Authority – nil
- GasFields Commission Queensland – nil
- South Bank Corporation – 112 in 2016–17 and 62 in 2017–18.

Please note, these customer complaint numbers refer to matters about the organisation itself. For example, landholder concerns about drilling, are provided to the GasFields Commission Queensland as core business and referred to the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy for management.

If you have any questions about my advice to you, please contact my office on (07) 3719 7200 or email statedevelopment@ministerial.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

CAMERON DICK MP
Minister for State Development, Manufacturing,
Infrastructure and Planning

cc Committee Secretariat State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee
SDNRAIDC@parliament.qld.gov.au



1 August 2018

State Development, Natural Resources and
Agricultural Industry Development Committee
Attention: Mr Chris Whiting MP, Chair

By email: SDNRAIDC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Whiting

I write with reference to the answer provided by Minister Lynham to a question taken on notice at the estimates hearing on Wednesday 25 July. A copy is **attached** for reference.

Many people are rightly calling this year's estimates process a 'farce' and a 'mockery.' I agree with these comments. In the last week, both the current Speaker Pitt and former Speaker Mickel have criticised the lack of accountability of the Palaszczuk Government.

Having now read the answer from Minister Lynham, I think the criticism of this process has not gone far enough.

As the committee is aware, I am also the Shadow Minister for Housing and Public Works, a portfolio which includes procurement. I raise this because I know that the Government's own procurement guidelines mandate the publication of details of all contracts over \$10,000.00.

I asked a simple question about the quantum paid to a consultant, recorded as "*Mr Smales, have you got a consultant working for you who is looking at employee conditions and the culture of your company being paid \$14,000 a day?*"

By the Government's own guidelines, my question should receive a detailed answer.

I ask the committee to reject the answer provided and request the Minister to provide a reasonable answer to my question without delay.

Yours sincerely

MICHAEL HART MP
SHADOW MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS
SHADOW MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND INNOVATION AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY
MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

CC: Hon Curtis Pitt MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
By email: Office.ofthespeaker@parliament.qld.gov.au

Hon Anthony Lynham MP, Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy
By email: nrm@ministerial.qld.gov.au

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**ESTIMATES HEARING
QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

asked on 25 JULY 2018

QUESTION

Expenditure on consultants in the last 12 months – Energy Queensland.

ANSWER:

Energy Queensland uses members of a firm, EQV Group, to provide a range of safety, organisational values and leadership training across the whole organisation.

The value of the contract, terms and conditions are commercial in confidence.



The Hon Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries

Our ref: CTS 22112/18

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Telephone +61 7 3719 7420
Email agriculture@ministerial.qld.gov.au

- 6 AUG 2018

Mr Chris Whiting MP
Chair
State Development, Natural Resources and
Agricultural Industry Development Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

RECEIVED

- 9 AUG 2018

Committee Office

Dear Mr Whiting

Chris,

I refer to the issues raised at the Parliamentary Estimate Committee hearing held on 25 July 2018 in relation to clarification of the Department's SDS and FTE numbers.

The SDS figures are budgeted FTEs and represents a cap or threshold for the Department. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries always manages its FTEs by maintaining some spare capacity between its actual FTEs and its FTE cap. This enables the Department to rapidly employ officers in emergency situations or responses, while managing active FTEs below its FTE budget. Therefore, actual active FTEs can vary throughout the year, depending on external funding for programs, seasonal work and emergency situations/responses.

As mentioned at the hearing I am more than happy to arrange a full briefing on SDS and FTE numbers for committee members should they wish.

To arrange a meeting, please contact Mr Brett Murphy, Chief of Staff in my office on

Yours sincerely

MARK FURNER MP

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries

**Answers to questions taken on notice at hearing –
25 July 2018**

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**ESTIMATES HEARING
QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

asked on 25 JULY 2018

QUESTION

Expenditure on consultants in the last 12 months – Energy Queensland.

ANSWER:

Energy Queensland uses members of a firm, EQV Group, to provide a range of safety, organisational values and leadership training across the whole organisation.

The value of the contract, terms and conditions are commercial in confidence.

Documents tabled at hearing – 25 July 2018

Documents tabled at the hearing – 25 July 2018	
1.	Email, dated 25 July 2018, forwarding Mr Marc Levy's (acting Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges) inability to attend the Estimates hearing, tabled by Hon. Mark Furner, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries.
2.	Media article, titled 'Petty Perret wrong' and page 7, 2014-15 Queensland State Budget – SDS, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, titled 'Staffing', tabled by Mr Tony Perrett MP, Member for Gympie.
3.	Media article, Queensland Country Life, dated 8 February 2018, titled 'Push for vegetation hearings in the bush', tabled by Mr Tony Perrett MP, Member for Gympie.
4.	Wilderness Society twitter page, dated 23 November 2017, regarding 'the deforestation pledge', tabled by Mr Tony Perrett MP, Member for Gympie.
5.	Document, undated, titled 'Decrease in Expenses beyond 2018-19', tabled by Hon. Mark Furner, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries.
6.	Media article, The Weekly Times, dated 5 June 2018, titled 'Queensland Budget: 'Help for drought-stricken farmers'', tabled by Mr Tony Perrett MP, Member for Gympie.
7.	Queensland Rural Debt Survey 2017 - An overview, tabled by Hon. Mark Furner, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries.
8.	Queensland Government media release, dated 25 July 2018, titled 'New cattle tick framework announced', tabled by Mr Tony Perrett MP, Member for Gympie.
9.	Document, undated, titled 'Drought assistance', tabled by Dr Elizabeth Woods, Director-General, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.
10.	Media article, The Courier Mail, dated 23 May 2018, titled 'Simple Google search could have saved taxpayers on flight simulator', tabled by Mr Andrew Powell MP, Member for Glass House.

11.	Photograph, depicting Hon. Cameron Dick at the Mackay Showgrounds, tabled by Hon. Cameron Dick, Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning.
12.	Photograph, dated 19 June, depicting Hon. Cameron Dick at the Mackay Showgrounds, tabled by Hon. Cameron Dick, Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning.
13.	Liberal National Party Media Release, dated 25 July 2018, titled 'Mackay let down by Labor', tabled by Hon. Cameron Dick, Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning.
14.	Media article, Gold Coast Bulletin, dated 25 July 2018, titled 'Flood pain', tabled by Mr Andrew Powell MP, Member for Glass House.
15.	Email from Media Statements Queensland, dated 25 July 2018, titled 'Where's the cheapest servo in town?' and attached photograph, tabled by Mr Michael Hart MP, Member for Burleigh.
16.	Document, undated, titled 'Budget Strategy and Outlook 2017-18', tabled by Mr Michael Hart MP, Member for Burleigh.
17.	Question on Notice No. 845, undated, regarding power generated by Wivenhoe, Barron Gorge and Kareeya, and ABC Radio audio transcript, dated 7 June 2018, regarding Wivenhoe pumped storage, tabled by Mr Michael Hart MP, Member for Burleigh.

Brett Murphy

From: DITCHFIELD Bernadette <Bernadette.Ditchfield@daf.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 July 2018 8:13 AM
To: WOODS Beth; Brett Murphy
Subject: Fwd: Estimates
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg

Brett - as discussed.

Bernadette

Bernadette Ditchfield
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
Mob: 0467 762 875

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Marc Levy <Marc.Levy@qatc.edu.au>
Date: 25 July 2018 at 8:11:52 am AEST
To: DITCHFIELD Bernadette <Bernadette.Ditchfield@daf.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Estimates

Dear Bernadette,

I am due to attend the Estimates Hearing this morning in my capacity as Acting Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges. Unfortunately I will be unable to attend due to ill health.

Please offer my apologies to the Committee for any inconvenience my absence may cause.

I will supply a medical certificate in due course.

Regards,



Marc Levy
A/Chief Executive Officer
T: 07 5468 2188 M: 0427 256 703
E: Marc.Levy@qatc.edu.au W: qatc.edu.au

Level 6, 41 George Street, Brisbane Qld 4000
Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges (QATC) is a Registered Training Organisation. RTO 31258.



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Tabled by: Mark Turner.
At: 8DNRAID C estimates.
Time/date: 25/7/18.
Signature: [Signature]

Petty Perrett wrong

THERE have been no cuts to Department of Agriculture and Fisheries or Biosecurity Queensland since the Palaszczuk Government won the 2015 election.

We have worked hard to restore capacity within the department to be able to adequately deal with outbreaks of weeds, pests and diseases that threaten our \$20 billion agriculture industry and the hundreds of thousands of jobs that are associated with it.

This was necessary after Campbell Newman and Deb Frecklington callously unleashed their razor gang on the public service and jeopardised Queensland's agriculture industry.

The LNP claims to be the farmer's friend but finds it hard

to explain why they cut 615 staff from DAF and sacked more than a quarter of Biosecurity Queensland staff.

Let's look at the figures for full-time equivalent staff in DAF.

In August 2012, just after the LNP won government, there were 2589 FTE staff.

By the time the LNP left government in early 2015, there were only 1973 FTE staff.

Now after a term of the Palaszczuk Government, there are 2033 FTE staff.

Staffing levels within Biosecurity Queensland fluctuate depending on our need to respond to emerging issues.

Last year we were dealing with the outbreak of white spot disease in our prawn industry as well as the ongoing issues of Panama TR-4 disease on bananas and red imported fire ants.

Member for Gympie Tony Perrett's claim of cuts (NM, 27/06) is deliberately deceitful and shows a disdain for all the staff the LNP sacked while they were in government.

And it also shows that he has

little or no understanding of how to read budget papers.

I encourage him to make time with my office for a remedial tutoring lesson so his reading and arithmetic skills can improve.

MARK FURNER
Agricultural Industry
Development and
Fisheries Minister


Tabled by: TONY PERRETT
At: SONRAIDC ESTIMATES.
Time/date: 9:15am 25/7/18
Signature: [Signature]

Staffing¹

Service Areas	Notes	2013-14 Adjusted Budget	2013-14 Est. Actual	2014-15 Budget
Agriculture	2, 3,4	1,001	1,001	1,001
Biosecurity Queensland	3,4	621	621	621
Fisheries and Forestry	2, 3	326	326	326
Subtotal		1,948	1,948	1,948
Corporate Partnership servicing other departments	5,6	220	220	220
TOTAL		2,168	2,168	2,168

Notes:

1. Full-time equivalents (FTEs) as at 30 June.
2. Agriculture Service Area is made up of the former Agriculture and Forestry and Agri-Science Queensland. The Forestry group in the former Agriculture and Forestry Service Area has merged with the Fisheries Service Area to make Fisheries and Forestry.
3. The Customer Service Centre was realigned from Biosecurity to Agriculture from 1 July 2014 to consolidate the department's customer service delivery. This accounts for a difference of 10 FTEs in published 2013-14 estimated FTE numbers for both Biosecurity and Agriculture.
4. Corporate FTEs providing internal corporate services are allocated to the service to which they relate. The above realignment of functions also resulted in changes to the corporate overhead and the apportionment of corporate FTEs in all the Service Areas.
5. Corporate FTEs employed by the department as part of the corporate partnership arrangements provide services to a number of other departments.
6. Under the corporate partnership arrangements, the department also receives services from Natural Resources and Mines and Environment and Heritage Protection.

Tabled by: TONY PERRETT
 At: SDNRAIDC ESTIMATES
 Time/date: 9:15am 25/7/18
 Signature: 

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Newsletter Feed



Minister hears
vegetation fears

5 months, 2 weeks ago

Push for vegetation hearings in the bush



Sally Cripps

8 Feb 2018, 6 p.m.

@sallyQCL

Newsletter Feed



 Timber talk: Blackall–Tambo deputy mayor, Lindsay Russell, councillor, Pam Pullos, and staff member, Alison Shaw, showed Agriculture Minister, Mark Furner, through the operation of the Tambo sawmill. Picture: Sally Cripps.



Aa

Queensland's Agriculture Minister, Mark Furner, committed to pushing for committee hearings in the regions likely to be most impacted by foreshadowed changes to vegetation management laws, when he visited Tambo on Wednesday.

Along with Blackall–Tambo councillors, he engaged with a group of six landholders plus AgForce representatives, who spent time explaining their perspective on tree clearing and the effect legislation changes would be likely to have.

Blackall wool producer, Rick Keogh, said generic legislation of the type promised by the government in the lead-up to the last election didn't take

into account the understanding that most landholders were active custodians of their land.

“Trees are very important to us,” he said. “They’re keeping our stock alive at the moment, especially on windy days.”

It was a similar message from Barry Mayne, who operates Tarabah Station north of Tambo, and who said his family had been there since the late 1800s.

“There’s no-one on the planet that wants to look after that country more than me,” he said.

The ability to thin a cypress pine monoculture, opening it up to sunlight and air, had been a boon for biodiversity on the property.

“The environment wins, the grazier wins, and forestry wins too, because the pine trees can start to grow again.

“I seriously hope we can keep managing it.”

Mr Furner said no-one should lose the point being made, that landholders had a vested interest in caring for their land.

“I have a lot of empathy for people in the regions and I will exercise my voice,” he said.

“Once the legislation comes about, it won’t be rushed the way previous governments have.

“There will be a first reading and then it will be handed over to a bipartisan committee.

“Everyone should put a submission in, then there will be hearings, and I will impress upon them to come out in the regions and hear from people like yourselves.”

A suggestion by Mr Mayne for harsher penalties, possibly in the form of suspended permission to clear any further for a period of time, were described by Mr Furner as consistent with what the government was proposing.

People deliberately flouting the laws concerned Mr Mayne because he saw it as an opportunity for interest groups to make use of those incidents to further their argument for stronger laws.

“The penalty can’t just be in the form of money because some of the people overstepping the mark have got a lot of money,” he said.


Mr Furner said that was an opportunity for consideration.

“That’s the role for the committee, to listen to that evidence, and I think that’s where it should be judged, in terms of the committee coming up with recommendations about that being a possibility,” he said.

He suggested that Katter’s Australian Party would have a representative on the yet-to-be-convened committee, along with government and LNP MPs.


Responding to calls from AgForce regional president, Guy Newell, and others present for an outcomes-based system rather than a politically-driven solution, Mr Furner it was always the case that superior numbers at voting time made the difference.

“The government is elected on the day based on the policies that put them into power,” he said. “Notwithstanding that, I’m always optimistic that people listen to evidence as serious as this, and come out and talk to people in the regions, having an understanding firsthand about their concerns and their issues they wish to put forward.”

 The naturally termite-resistant cypress pine from the Tambo mill is finding a ready market in the Victorian housing industry, where the government has passed a bill that prevents treated timber from being used in house framing.

While in Tambo, Mr Furner inspected the sawmill that has been operational since August last year, hearing that there had been a 20 per cent boost in school enrolments and an extra teacher put on since the timber industry had been restarted in the region.

The operators have access to 5700 tonnes annually and are currently bringing in one roadtrain of cypress pine a day.

Tabled by: TONY PERRETT
At: SDNRALDC, ESTIMATES
Time/date: 25/7/18
Signature: 

**Wilderness Society**

@Wilderness_Aus

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Thanks @MarkFurnerMP for signing our deforestation pledge committing to being a champion for strong laws & restoration and acting in the first 100 days if elected.
#QldVotes2017 #Qldpol



8:46 PM - 23 Nov 2017

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3

14



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Tabled by: TONY PERRETT
At: SDNRAIDC ESTIMATES.
Time/date: 10:25am 25/7/18
Signature: [Signature]

Trends for you

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Challen Tom Boyd Dr Richard Harris #ThaiCaveRescue #thedrum

Decrease in Expenses beyond 2018-19

- The decrease in expenses beyond 2018-19 is primarily due to the scheduled finalisation of funding arrangements for various departmental limited life initiatives and a reduction in funding for contracted Research and Development projects from external funding bodies.
- Limited life initiatives that cease funding in 2018-19 include the Technology Commercialisation Fund, the containment of White Spot Disease and various biosecurity pest and weed initiatives.
- Limited life initiatives that cease funding in 2019-20 include the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy, the implementation of the Biosecurity Capability Review and the Panama disease tropical race 4 response.
- Limited life initiatives that cease funding in 2020-21 include the Driving Queensland Agriculture and Rural Jobs Growth Initiative.
- There are no areas of service delivery that will suffer as a result of these budgeting adjustments.

Tabled by: MINISTER FURNER
At: SONRNDPC ESTIMATES
Time/date: 10:30am 25/7/18
Signature: 



Queensland Budget: Help for drought-stricken farmers

GEOFF EGAN, Sunshine Coast Daily

June 5, 2018 5:57pm

Subscriber only



MORE than \$34 million will go towards drought relief in next week's Queensland budget.

The Government will commit to \$34.6 million in drought relief – the same amount promised in the 2017 budget despite eight council areas no longer being drought declared after they received rain recently.

But Agriculture Minister Mark Furner said much of the state remained in desperate need of help.

“With more than half of our state still in drought, the Palaszczuk Government will continue to maintain existing drought relief arrangements to drought affected communities,” he said.

The Toowoomba, Southern Downs and Lockyer Valley council areas are entirely drought declared. Banana, Isaac, Whitsunday and Charters Towers are partially declared. Almost all western and southern Queensland council areas are entirely drought declared.

But Mr Furner said farmers from non-drought declared areas could apply for an individual declaration.

A further \$17.5 million will be budgeted for the Queensland Drought and Climate Adaptation Program aimed at increasing farm business capacity and improving risk management.

“Research includes working with national and international climate modellers to improve seasonal forecasts and improving predictions of multi-year droughts,” Mr Furner said.

“Our focus is to help producers build resilience and increase business productivity, leading to more profitable and sustainable grazing businesses.

“This will be achieved by developing resources that will focus on reducing land degradation and boosting productivity in our variable climate through a range of tools, digital technologies and networks.”

Farmers advocacy group AgForce has previously called for more help for drought-affected farmers.

Earlier this year AgForce said increased capital works, rates relief, education assistance and increased mental health support could help communities struggling with the drought.



COMMENTS



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Tabled:
Tony Perrett.
25/7/18 10:30 am.
SDNRAID. estimates hearing.




+ Queensland Rural Debt Survey 2017

An overview

Freecall 1800 623 946
www.qrida.qld.gov.au

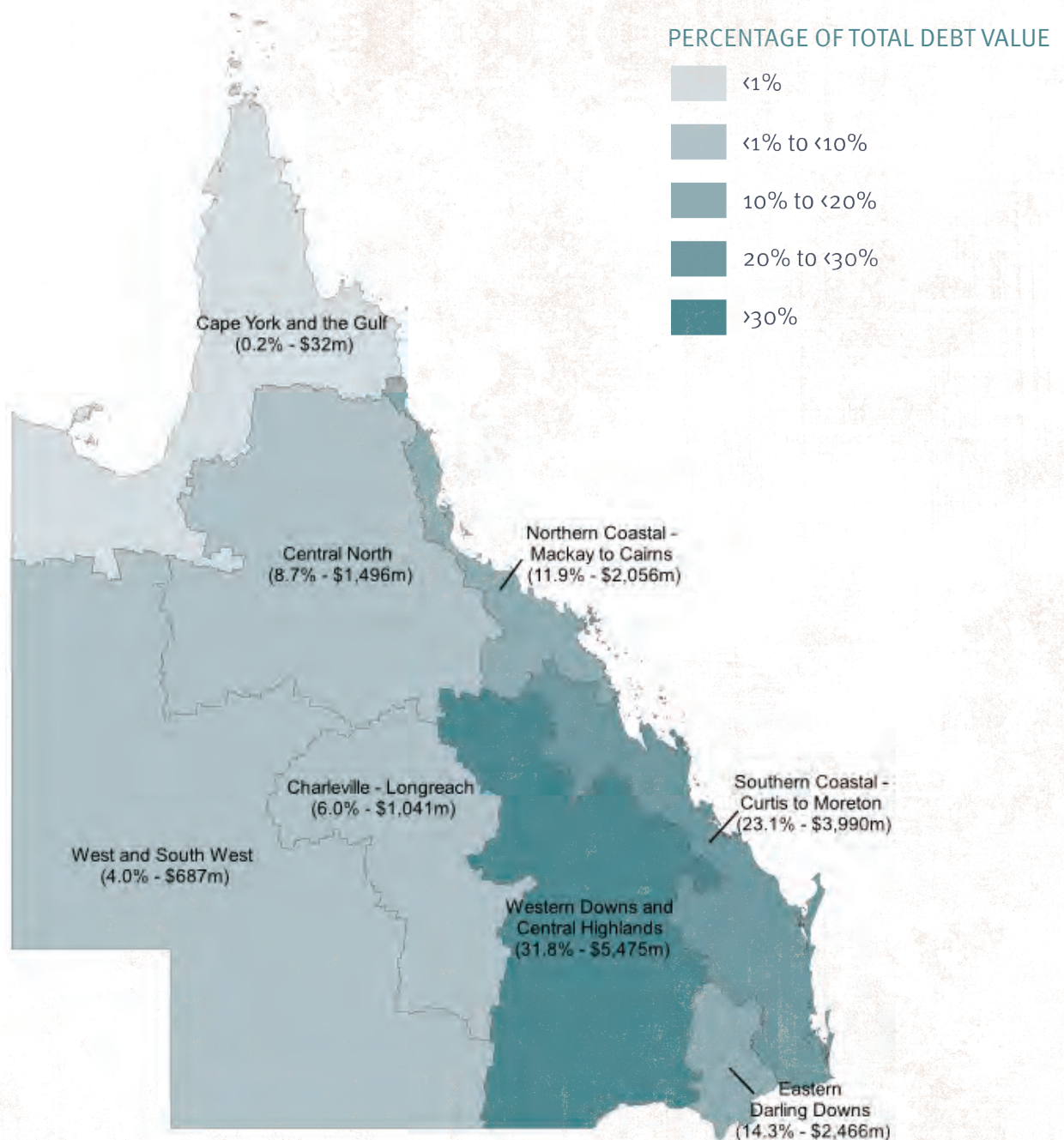
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Total debt by region

ABARES REGION	2017 ('000)	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
Cape York and the Gulf	\$32,392	0.19%
Central North	\$1,496,216	8.68%
Charleville - Longreach	\$1,040,832	6.04%
Eastern Darling Downs	\$2,465,629	14.30%
Northern Coastal - Mackay to Cairns	\$2,056,091	11.92%
Southern Coastal - Curtis to Moreton	\$3,990,013	23.14%
West and South West	\$686,637	3.98%
Western Downs and Central Highlands	\$5,475,029	31.75%
Total	\$17,242,838	



Percentage of Total Rural Debt per ABARES (2016) region is partly a reflection of the industry, size and nature of rural activity in these regions.

Rural Debt is defined as the total indebtedness of all farmers/rural enterprises throughout Queensland, where the servicing of the rural debt relies primarily on rural generated income.

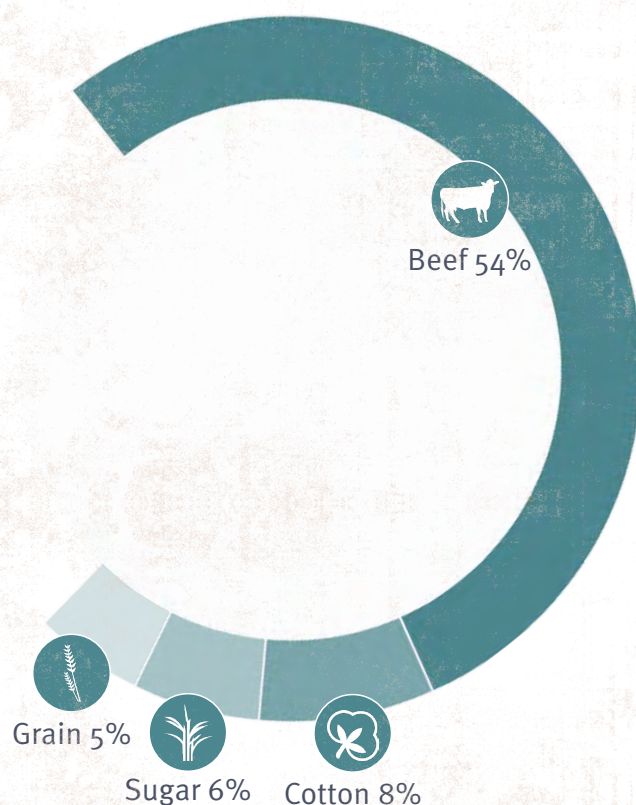
Debt funding has long been a principal source of capital for Australian farm businesses. Of all the financial institutions, banks still represent the highest proportion of lending to farmers in Australia.


The **Queensland Rural Debt Survey** ascertains the extent, trends, nature and size of the total rural indebtedness in Queensland as at 31 December 2017. The 2017 survey includes data from the nine major rural lenders in Queensland.

The Queensland Rural Debt Survey has been conducted by the **Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA)**, formerly QRAA, since 1994. From 2001 to 2011, the survey was conducted biennially and resumed again in 2017. The 2017 survey report includes an analysis of the movement in rural debt since the previous 2011 survey.

For more information see the complete 2017 Queensland Rural Debt Survey report available at www.qrida.qld.gov.au/rds2017

Debt proportion by major industry



 **Average debt per borrower**
\$0.94 million
-12% compared to 2011 (\$1.07m)

Total debt
\$17.24 billion
+1.6% compared to 2011 (\$16.98b)

Number of borrowers
18,335
+16% compared to 2011 (15,822)

Beef



Total debt: \$9,354m
Movement*: ↑1.91%
Borrowers: 7,553

Queensland is the nation's beef capital with 47 per cent of the meat cattle herd. The beef industry represents 54.25 per cent of total rural debt in 2017 which is proportional to the size of the industry in Queensland.

Extended dry periods from 2011-2017 have made environmental conditions tough, however prices have remained high throughout the period. These more favourable returns appear to have seen beef producers pay down debt over the period with only a minor increase in overall debt since 2011.

The three regions with the highest proportion of beef debt were Western Downs and Central Highlands, Southern Coastal – Curtis to Moreton and Central North (totalling \$6,251m). These are also some of the highest beef producing regions of Queensland.

The average debt per beef borrower was \$1.24m.

Cotton



Total debt: \$1,332m
Movement*: ↑2.00%
Borrowers: 443

Queensland grows 34 per cent of the nation's cotton. The cotton industry represents 7.73 per cent of total rural debt in 2017.

Cotton prices have steadily increased during 2011-2017; however, hectares planted have decreased over the same time. The key driver for crop productivity in cotton is the availability of water.

The cotton industry is one of the fastest adopting agricultural industries, with significant investments made in both new genetics and harvesting equipment.

The Western Downs and Central Highlands region had the highest proportion of cotton debt, with \$926m. This is also the largest region for cotton production.

The average debt per cotton borrower was \$3.01m.

Intensive Livestock



Total debt: \$457m
Movement*: ↓3.03%
Borrowers: 580

Intensive livestock includes poultry, deer, horse, pig and other farming not elsewhere identified.

Intensive livestock makes up 2.65 per cent of total rural debt in Queensland in 2017, which is a similar proportion to the 2011 survey.

The intensive livestock industry requires significant capital investment, including adequate facilities, stockfeed supplies and labour and can be affected greatly by climate variability.

Eastern Darling Downs has the highest level of intensive livestock debt with \$182m. This area has a significant amount of intensive animal production.

The average debt per intensive livestock borrower was \$0.79m.

Dairy



Total debt: \$257m
Movement*: ↑8.29%
Borrowers: 528

The dairy industry represents 1.49 per cent of the rural debt in the 2017 survey.

The Queensland production of whole milk has been declining since the late 1990s, which has plateaued in the past few years. Since 2013, the average farm gate milk price has been gradually decreasing. Higher average farm incomes have been experienced more recently with commentators suggesting this is due to higher prices for cull dairy cows and other dairy and beef cattle supplementing income.

The region with the greatest amount of dairy debt was Southern Coastal – Curtis to Moreton at \$125m.

The average debt per borrower for dairy was \$0.49m.

Sugar



Total debt: \$1,038m

Movement*: ↑6.35%

Borrowers: 1,981

Queensland grows the majority (94 per cent) of the nation's sugar cane crop, with the gross value of sugar cane being \$1.5 billion in 2016-17. Sugar cane growers comprise 6.02 per cent of Queensland's total rural debt in 2017.

Since 2011, domestic consumption of sugar has remained steady, cane crushed has increased and returns to cane growers have been relatively steady.

The region with the greatest amount of sugar debt was Northern Coastal – Mackay to Cairns, with a debt level of \$880m. This region is where the vast majority of the cane is produced in Queensland.

The average debt per sugar borrower was \$0.52m.

Grain



Total debt: \$933m

Movement*: ↓15.12%

Borrowers: 831

One third of the nation's grain crops are grown in Queensland, with grain growers representing 5.41 per cent of total rural debt in 2017.

The grain industry has seen a 15.12 per cent reduction in debt since the 2011 survey. This can be attributed to several factors including the rapid increase in chickpea production off the back of exceptional chickpea prices in 2015 and 2016. Yields have been increasing for winter crops since 2013-14, however summer crops' yields have been more stagnant or reduced slightly.

Western Downs and Central Highlands, where the majority of Queensland's grain production occurs, has the highest amount of grain debt totalling \$435m.

The average debt per grain borrower was \$1.12m.

Sheep/Wool



Total debt: \$132m

Movement*: ↑36.12%

Borrowers: 226

The sheep industry represents 0.76 per cent of total rural debt for Queensland in 2017.

Queensland sheep numbers have been declining for some time. Even with a resurgence in price, minimal rain and drought has meant that sheep numbers have not increased. Significant investment has also been made with exclusion fencing to assist with wild dog predation control since 2011.

Whilst sheep debt increased 36.12 per cent between 2011 to 2017, as a proportion of total rural debt, the Queensland sheep industry debt is relatively small.

The region with the greatest amount of sheep/wool debt was Charleville-Longreach at \$53m.

The average debt per borrower for sheep/wool was \$0.58m.

Marine



Total debt: \$89m

Movement*: ↓36.86%

Borrowers: 389

Marine includes fishing, rock lobster and crab potting, prawn fishing, line fishing, fish trawling, and netting.

Whilst marine industry debt decreased 36.86 per cent between 2011 to 2017, the marine industry's debt represents 0.52 per cent of total rural debt.

The region with the greatest amount of marine debt was Southern Coastal – Curtis to Moreton at \$65m.

The average debt per borrower for marine was \$0.23m.

Grain/Grazing



Total debt: \$867m

Movement*: ↓25.27%

Borrowers: 975

The grain/grazing industry comprises sheep and cattle as well as grain enterprises (otherwise known as mixed grain/grazing).

For the 2017 survey, grain/grazing accounted for 5.03 per cent of total Queensland rural debt. This has been a 25 per cent reduction in debt since the 2011 survey.

Commentators suggest that increased yields for winter crops and increased receipts for grazing has contributed to overall higher cash receipts and pay down of debt.

The region with the highest level of debt was the Western Downs and Central Highlands at \$624m as mixed enterprise farms are prevalent in this area.

The average debt per grain/grazing borrower was \$0.89m.

Tree Crops & Vegetables



Total debt: \$672m (TC) \$523m (V)

Movement*: ↑13.86% (TC) ↓12.16% (V)

Borrowers: 925 (TC) 538 (V)

Tree crops, comprising of fruit and tree nut growing, makes up almost 3.90 per cent of total rural debt in the 2017 survey. Vegetables make up 3.03 per cent of total rural debt in Queensland in 2017.

Throughout the 2011-2017 period, vegetable horticulture experienced some crop reductions due to impacts of natural disasters.

The Southern Coastal – Curtis to Moreton region had the greatest horticulture debt with a value of \$302m for tree crops and \$319m for vegetables.

The average debt per borrower for tree crops was \$0.73m and for vegetables was \$0.97m.

Aquaculture



Total debt: \$40m

Movement*: ↑32.12%

Borrowers: 66

Aquaculture comprises both offshore caged aquaculture and onshore aquaculture.

Whilst aquaculture industry debt increased 32.12 per cent between 2011 to 2017, the aquaculture industry's debt represents 0.23 per cent of total rural debt.

The region with the greatest amount of aquaculture debt was Northern Coastal – Mackay to Cairns at \$25m.

The average debt per borrower for aquaculture was \$0.61m.

Various



Forestry and Logging

Total Debt: \$104m

Borrowers: 154

Services to Agriculture

Total Debt: \$806m

Borrowers: 2,173

Hunting and Trapping

Total Debt: \$2m

Borrowers: 26

Other

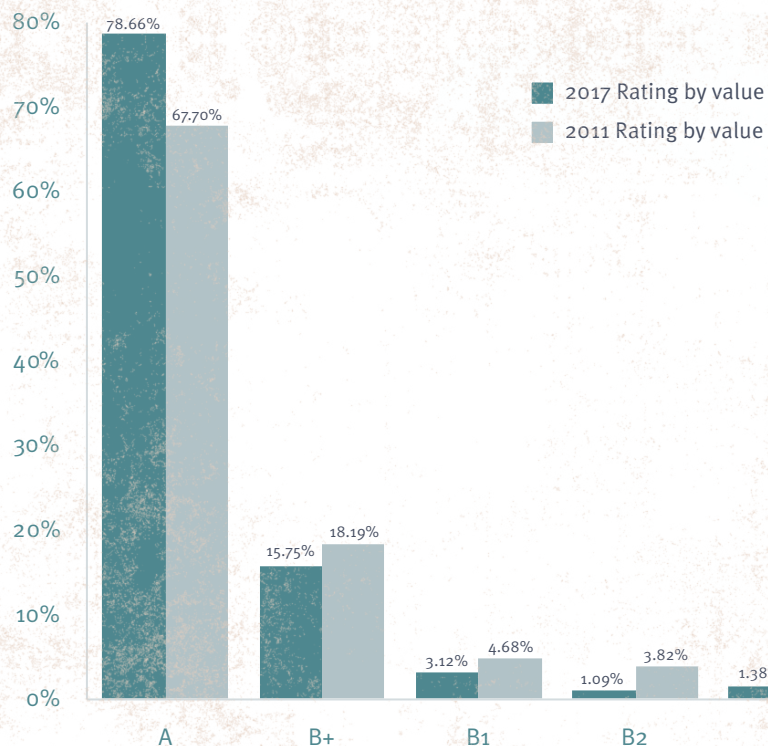
Total Debt: \$637m

Borrowers: 1,508

*Movement in debt 2011-2017

Please note some borrowers had debt across several industries

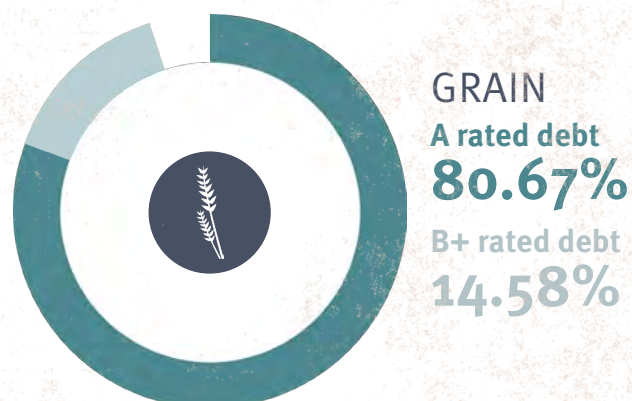
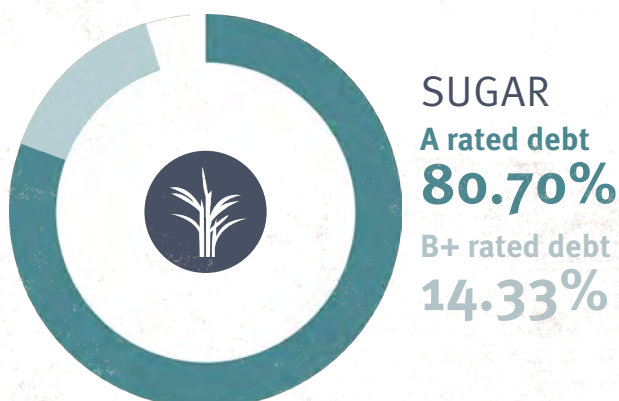
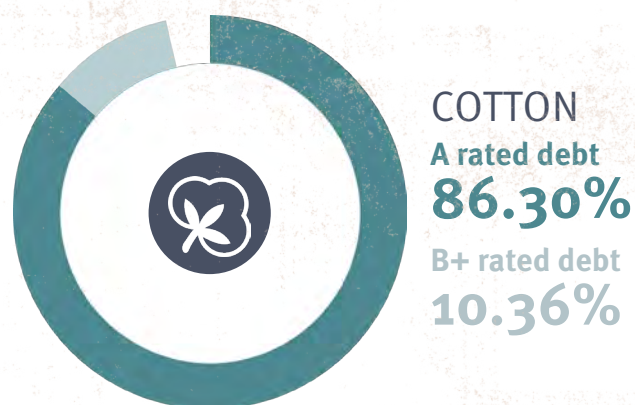
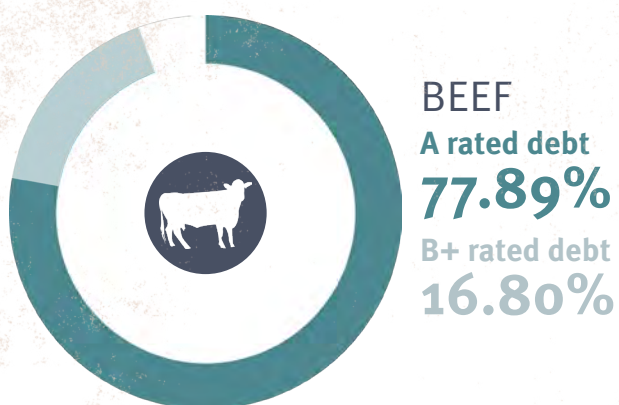
Risk profile by value

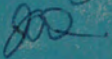


RISK CATEGORIES

- A** Considered viable under most/all circumstances
- B+** Experienced debt servicing difficulties under present circumstances – potentially viable long term
- B1** Experiencing debt servicing difficulties under present circumstances – debt situation deteriorating and in danger of becoming non-viable will continue to receive support of lender (top 50% of category)
- B2** Experiencing debt servicing difficulties under present circumstances – debt situation deteriorating and in danger of becoming non-viable (bottom 50% of category)
- C** Considered non-viable

Industry by debt rating



Tabled:
Minister Furner
25/7/18
estimates hearing
10.48 am. 

WITH THANKS

The Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) undertook the 2017 Queensland Rural Debt Survey in collaboration with the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO) and with the support of all the major rural lending institutions in Queensland. Additional assistance was provided by other government agencies and agricultural industry associations.

MORE INFORMATION:

Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority
Level 26, 32 Turbot Street Brisbane QLD
GPO Box 211 Brisbane Queensland 4001
ABN 30 644 268 943

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Requests for further information or authorisation
should be directed to the CEO, GPO Box 211 Brisbane QLD 4001
Freecall 1800 623 946
www.qrida.qld.gov.au
Published June 2018

*Note. Reprinted from Queensland Government Statistician's Office,
Queensland Treasury, Rural Debt Survey 2017, Output Tables*



Media release

Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries
The Honourable Leanne Donaldson

New cattle tick framework announced

Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Leanne Donaldson today announced a simplified and stronger cattle tick management framework in Queensland including the location of the new tick line.

"As of 1 July 2016, part of Queensland will be designated as a tick free zone, and the remainder will be designated as a tick infested zone," Minister Donaldson said.

"We've simplified and strengthened the tick line by removing the confusing control zone and in some areas aligning the tick line with stronger double fenced boundaries.

"The new framework will provide greater flexibility for producers, reduce travel times, reduce costs for industry, and most importantly it will continue to protect the cattle tick free zone.

"We have continually heard from producers that a one size fits all approach does not work and livestock owners want control of biosecurity decisions that impact their businesses.

"The changes I am announcing today ends decades of uncertainty and contention."

Minister Donaldson said she had made her decision after listening to advice from producers, delegations from industry and guidance from the Department.

"There has been extensive consultation on the tick line.

"More than 1000 surveys were collected during the consultation on the location of the tick line, as well as submissions from industry groups and feedback collected during producer meetings.

"More than 1000 producers attended information and consultation meetings and I have received delegations and visited areas of contention around Kingaroy, Hughenden and Durong.

"I have listened to the concerns that were expressed and, wherever possible, acted to meet the wishes of the majority of producers.

"The consultation was around three options. The decision is to adopt Option Three, but with amendments based on the feedback from industry and individuals."

The Minister said she wanted to ensure that producers who had attempted to control ticks without success would not be disadvantaged by being placed in a position where they were obliged to eradicate.

"The new location of the tick line can be viewed on the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' website, or by contacting the Department.

"There will be an opportunity to review the tick line once we see how it impacts producers.

"In two years the Department will assess the effectiveness of eradication and I will look to adjust the line accordingly."

Queensland's Chief Veterinary Officer Allison Crook said to minimise the risk of cattle tick spreading into the free zone, control of high risk livestock moving into the free zone will be maintained, but with more flexibility.

"When crossing from the infested zone to the free zone, producers can have their livestock certified tick free by an accredited certifier at any location, including their own property," said Dr Crook.

"This will reduce transportation costs, helping to sustain our profitable primary industries and improve animal welfare.

"Owners of low risk livestock, such as horses and sheep, will have an obligation to only move tick free animals into the tick free zone, but an accredited certifier will not have to assess their animals.

"Biosecurity Queensland inspectors will implement a cattle tick surveillance program that will monitor livestock movements and ensure cattle ticks in the free zone aren't spreading."

Cattle tick and tick fever will continue to be notifiable when they occur in the free zone.

Property owners will be required to eradicate cattle ticks if their property becomes infested in the free zone.

The new cattle tick management framework will commence with the *Biosecurity Act 2014* on 1 July 2016.

For more information and to view the cattle tick line map visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au (<http://www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au/>) and follow the link.

Information is also available by calling 13 25 23.

Media:

Minister Donaldson: 0448 994 172

DAF: 3087 8574

*Tabled.
Tony Perrett MP
25/7/18. 10.58pm.
estimates hearing.*

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

- As of May 2018, 57.4% of the State is drought-declared – down from 66.27%.
- The 2017-18 budget for the Drought Assistance Package was \$34.55 million, but expenditure is \$31.09 million.
- This is attributable to a reduction in demand for DRAS (\$10.89 million against a \$20 million budget), but an increase in demand for the Drought Relief from Electricity Charges program (\$12 million against a \$6.35 million budget).
- Demand was high for the Drought Relief from Electricity Charges program, due to the drought's impact on many coastal areas where irrigation relies on electricity for pumping water.
- Demand has fallen for DRAS, largely due to a fall in demand for the Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate (EWIR) component of the DRAS program, extensive destocking through the long drought, and a gradual improvement in conditions in parts of the State.
- Many producers have already undertaken eligible activities for the EWIR component of DRAS earlier in the drought.

Tabled by: Dr E Woods
At: SDNRA/DC ESTIMATES
Time/date: 11:30am 25/7/18
Signature: [Signature]

7/25/2018 | 12:44 PM | 12°C

The Courier Mail

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State Development Minister Cameron Dick (left) and Ansett Aviation Training boss David Garside at the January announcement.

QLD POLITICS

Simple Google search could have saved taxpayers on flight simulator

Steven Wardill, The Courier-Mail

May 23, 2018 12:00am

Subscriber only



- Scottish brewer lured
- Tax breaks for Hollywood
- Premier woos studios

Tabled.
 A. Powell.
 25/7/18 12:44 pm.
 estimates.

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Search

NEWS BREAKING LOCAL QUEENSLAND OPINION CRIME & C

but *The Courier-Mail* has learned Google searches would have alerted bureaucrats to announcements by Southern Pacific Flight Training that it had bought the \$14 million simulator and would base it in Brisbane.

Searches would have also revealed Ansett Aviation claimed in December 2016 it had ordered the ATR 600 simulator to operate from southeast Queensland but the proposal never eventuated.

It is understood Southern Pacific has deals with major airlines whose fleets include the twin-engine turboprop aircraft the simulator emulates.

The company may now base itself elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific region, taking the business for training pilots in an aircraft commonly used for islands and regional routes away from Brisbane.

The Courier-Mail understands bureaucrats have been scrambling after learning a grant was awarded to bring business to Brisbane that was already happening for free.

One of the core principles of the attraction fund is that recipients must not “crowd out” other private sector investment already occurring.

The Government has refused to reveal how much it will provide Ansett in the form of cash payments and tax breaks under the fund.

A spokesman for Southern Pacific declined to comment.

State Development Minister Cameron Dick refused to say if the Government knew of the rival plan but defended the decision, saying Ansett was also moving two older simulators to Queensland.

“It is about building an aviation training hub – one that involves establishing a total of three simulators in Brisbane, including two that are being relocated from Melbourne,” he said.

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk today said she would investigate how the double-up occurred.

She hinted, however, that she believed there was room for two simulator operators.

“There’s going to be a lot of pilots that need training in the future and I want them to be trained here and not just one company are going to do that,” she said.



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Tabled by: MINISTER C. DICK
At: SDNRAIDC ESTIMATES
Time/date: 1:20pm 25/7/18
Signature: [Signature]



Cameron Dick

19 June · 🌐

Great to finish a big day across Queensland by opening the renovated Mackay Showgrounds tonight with [Julieanne Gilbert](#) Member for Mackay who fought hard to secure \$2.3 million in state funding to support this important community project.



Tabled by: MINISTER C. DICK
At: SDNRALDC ESTIMATES
Time/date: 1:20pm 25/7/18
Signature: [Signature]



Andrew **POWELL** MP

Shadow Minister for State Development, Manufacturing,
Infrastructure and Planning

Media Release

Mackay let down by Labor

Wednesday, 25 July 2018

Liberal National Party Shadow Minister for State Development Andrew Powell has slammed the Palaszczuk Labor Government for delaying Building our Regions Projects in Mackay.

"Once again Mackay has been ignored by the Brisbane-centric Palaszczuk Labor Government," Mr Powell said.

"Projects like Shellgrit Creek Drainage Upgrades and Mackay Showgrounds Redevelopment would have created jobs for locals but instead, Labor continues to push out the timeframes for the projects.

"The Mackay Showgrounds Redevelopment project has been delayed by eight months and the Shellgrit Creek Drainage Upgrades have been delayed by three months under Labor.

"Worse still the Labor Government regularly shifts the goalposts by updating the Building our Regions website with expected completion dates without even notifying the involved stakeholders.

"Secretly updating completion dates so that no project is overdue is something I would expect from the North Korean regime not the Queensland Government

"I'm left wondering whether if this is just the tip of the iceberg – how far is this Palaszczuk Labor Government willing to go in re-writing history to suit their political agenda?

"This is simply not good enough, Regional Queensland deserves better.

"Only the LNP will bridge the divide between the Southeast and Regional Queensland."

Mr Powell said sadly the Building our Regions program was failing across the state.

"Of the 174 projects worth a collective \$225 million across Queensland, few if any have stuck to their originally published construction timeframe," Mr Powell said.

"Every time these projects get delayed or pushed back, it's one less job in the community and one less boost for Mackay's economy.

"This Brisbane-centric Labor Government is only focused on building Cross River Rail in Brisbane and completely ignoring the regions.

"Annastacia Palaszczuk and her Labor Government need to stop ignoring Regional Queensland get on with Building our Regions."

Tabled by: MINISTER C DICK
At: SDNR/IDC ESTIMATES
Time/date: 1:20pm 25/7/18
Signature: [Signature]

Media contact: Eloise McNee 0432 606 320



State warned model will send insurance premiums soaring

FLOOD PAIN



NEW city flood mapping could put future stages of the light rail at risk and drive up home insurance premiums by thousands of dollars, a detailed submission from town planners to the State Government warns.

The RACQ said the mapping would influence insurance premiums.

However, council planning

committee chairman Councillor Cameron Caldwell said: "Council will not support development in areas where it is considered there is a significant risk to people and property. Our floodplains provide essential flood storage and open space for our city and need to be protected for that purpose."

FULL STORY P4-5



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Developer concerns in new model

PAUL WESTON

paul.weston@news.com.au

NEW city flood mapping could put future stages of the light rail at risk and drive up home insurance premiums by thousands of dollars, a detailed submission to the State Government warns.

Correspondence from leading town planners to State Development Minister Cameron Dick also predicts a development retreat from the coast as vast tracts of land are deemed flood prone.

The *Bulletin* has obtained the lengthy submission to the minister, sent after the Gold Coast City Council updated its flooding overlay maps on its website, showing most of the coastline under water in a one-in-a-hundred-year event.

These models, also known as Q100, are used to help shape town planning policy which in turn affects rules for development, insurance policies and land values.

Separate complaints from residents in feedback to the City Plan back the submission by the Zone Planning Group, headed by respected planner and director David Ransom.

"While acknowledging that

council has every right to amend flood levels in response to the most recent flooding and climate information, our principal complaint is council has not prepared a publicly available technical report which demonstrates how particular Q100 flood levels were determined," Mr Ransom wrote.

"And hence there is no way of independently verifying

whether council actions are correct, let alone reasonable.

"Given the importance of this matter, we believe it is essential a technical background report is produced and made publicly available and contend that the public advertising process undertaken by council is incomplete and invalid because this has not been done."

The Zone Planning Group warned that:

- A 75cm increase in the Q100 level (a one-in-a-hundred-years flood) will have a "significantly adverse effect on the financial interests of thousands of residents in Burleigh Heads, Palm Beach and Currumbin".

- Areas of these suburbs will be "practically undevelopable" if the new mapping is rubber stamped by the Government.

- This will prevent an "intensified population catchment" being created west of the Gold Coast Hwy to support the proposed light rail extension to Coolangatta.

- The council failed to consider the impact on insurance policies which could increase from \$2000 annually to \$8000 where flood events occurred.

- The council is "effectively advocating a retreat strategy" in the Tallebudgera and Currumbin Creek catchments.

- Public consultation should recommence with the necessary background reporting made for an independent review.

- Information sessions should be held at Palm Beach, Burleigh and Currumbin to explain how the changes were arrived at, and the consequences.

The group said the council, in preparing the flood maps, failed to acknowledge a 15-month investigation of "wave set-up and storm tide" at Tallebudgera and Currumbin, which was yet to be completed.

"Council are approaching flooding issues in the city in a piecemeal and reactive manner (rather) than a holistic manner," Mr Ransom wrote.

"Many flooding issues are

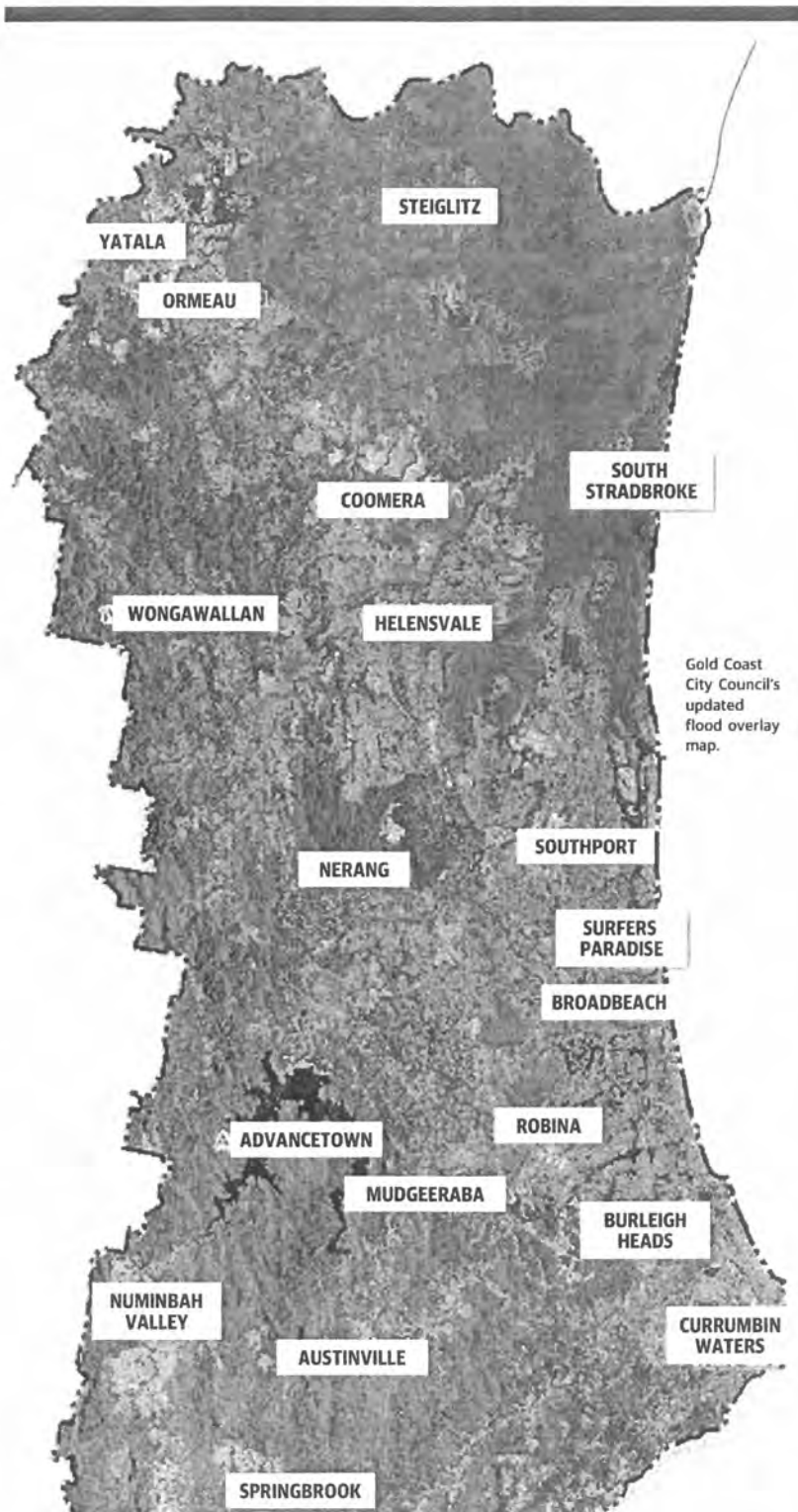
interrelated and they should be reviewed as one exercise, not as many smaller exercises which are not co-ordinated."

Planners maintained an example of this was the council's recent move to prevent residential development on elevated podiums in flood-affected areas. A council source said planning changes that prevented developments on podiums in flood-prone areas were designed to protect residents.

Mr Ransom declined to comment yesterday, but the *Bulletin* is aware of other submissions by community stakeholders voicing concerns.

Council Planning Committee chairman Councillor Cameron Caldwell told the *Bulletin* yesterday: "Council will not support development in areas where it is considered there is a significant risk to people and property. Our floodplains provide essential flood storage and open space for our city and need to be protected for that purpose."

A State Development spokesman said the department was aware of Mr Ransom's concerns about technical reports that supported the council's flood overlay mapping for the City Plan.



Tabled by: ANDREW POWELL
At: SONRAIDC ESTIMATES
Time/date: 3pm 25/7/18
Signature: [Signature]

Subject: Where's the cheapest servo in town?

Date: Wednesday, 25 July 2018 at 12:01:55 pm Australian Eastern Standard Time

From: Media Statements QLD

To: Michael Hart



Media release

Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy
The Honourable Dr Anthony Lynham

Where's the cheapest servo in town?

Queensland motorists will be able to find the cheapest fuel in town on their smartphone from December.

Energy Minister Dr Anthony Lynham today announced the government would kick off its two-year fuel price reporting trial in December.

"From December, Queenslanders will start to see price changes on their smartphones within 30 minutes of a price change at the bowser," Dr Lynham said.

"The goal is for Queensland motorists to be able to identify the best deal, and use their buying power to support retailers who are doing the right thing," he said.

"This trial seeks to put the power into customer's hands.

"Retailers will have three months' grace to get their houses in order and by the Easter holidays, offenders will face fines if they do not report their fuel prices accurately and on time."

The two-year trial will see fuel prices published on existing smartphone apps and websites such as Motormouth, GasBuddy, PetrolSpy, RACQ and Compare the Market.

The trial comes on top of the *what you see is what you pay* laws that require retailers to display full prices, rather than conditionally discounted offers, on their fuel boards.

Dr Lynham said the system would have in-built safeguards against inaccurate or misleading pricing and not inflict unnecessary red tape. The government will evaluate the trial's performance in 2020.

"The Palaszczuk Government has always been focussed on developing a model that doesn't create so much red tape that it is unworkable and pushes prices up," he said.

"In contrast to the LNP's proposed scheme, this system will be cost effective and will not compete against commercial providers with its own fuel price app or website.

"We will not slug taxpayers with a price tag of up to \$20 million and we will not punish fuel retailers with additional red tape that drives up the price of petrol.

"The Australian Consumer and Competition Commission has found the extent to which motorists are being ripped off.

"The most effective way to fix this national issue would be for the Turnbull Government to give the ACCC the powers to act on its findings."

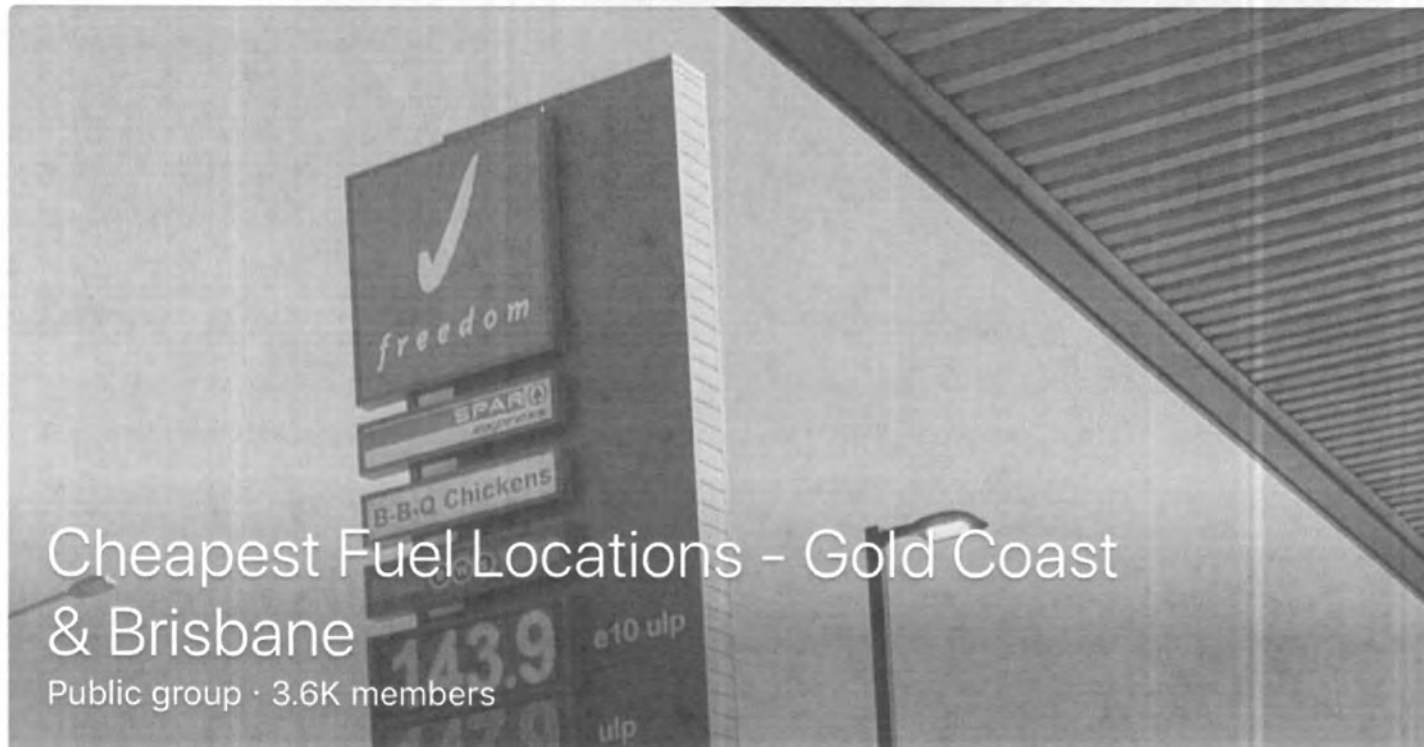
[ENDS]

Media inquiries: Jan Martin 0439 341 314

Tabled by: MICHAEL HART
At: SDNRAIDC ESTIMATES
Time/date: 6:08 PM 25/7/18
Signature: [Signature]



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Signature: [Signature]

Budget Strategy and Outlook 2017-18

Table 8.3 Earnings before interest and tax¹

	2015-16 Actual \$ million	2016-17 Budget \$ million	2016-17 Est. Act. \$ million	2017-18 Budget \$ million	2018-19 Projection \$ million	2019-20 Projection \$ million	2020-21 Projection \$ million
Electricity Networks	2,573	2,533	2,823	2,064	1,933	1,941	1,869
Electricity Generation	382	482	892	1,070	858	750	564
Rail	447	409	354	291	335	371	379
Ports	218	212	191	188	212	227	232
Water	352	409	452	438	482	460	483
Other	(59)	13	19	1	(8)	(10)	(10)
Total PNFC sector earnings before interest and tax	3,913	4,059	4,731	4,053	3,811	3,739	3,517
Note:							
1. Numbers may not add due to rounding and bracketed numbers represent negative amounts.							

8.2.2 Borrowings

Entities in the PNFC Sector utilise debt financing as a source of funds for asset renewal and capital investments, and to maintain an optimum capital structure.

PNFC Sector entities are required to take a prudent and sound approach to the management of debt, including the establishment of borrowing arrangements which are appropriate to the business risk of the organisation. These arrangements take into account the appropriateness of

Tabled by: MICHAEL HART
At: SONRAIDC ESTIMATES
Time/date: 6:16pm 25/7/18
Signature: [Signature]

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 845

asked on Friday, 15 June 2018

MR M HART ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how much power has been generated by the Wivenhoe, Barron Gorge and Kareeya pumped hydro power stations over the period from May 2017 to June 2018 (reported separately by individual month generation)?

ANSWER:

Relevant figures are provided below. It should be noted that Wivenhoe is the only pumped hydro power station.

Barron Gorge Hydro Power Station

Total power generation between May 2017 and June 2018

Year	FY2016–17		FY2017–18											
Month	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE
Total generation (MWh)	5537	3884	4399	7766	1560	6757	2227	1647	12553	22599	35811	26132	10666	22207

Kareeya Hydro Power Station

Total power generation between May 2017 and June 2018

Year	FY2016–17		FY2017–18											
Month	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE
Total generation (MWh)	53062	40491	41493	25381	23076	9391	13621	23898	11948	46598	55078	61925	64937	54918

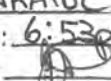
Wivenhoe Pumped Hydro power station

Total power generation between May 2017 and June 2018

Year	FY2016–17		FY2017–18											
Month	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE
Total generation (MWh)	600	0	170	1470	2070	13330	820	1730	2040	620	460	4500	2700	5031

The nameplate capacity of the three generations sites are as follows

	Capacity (MW)
Barron Gorge	66.0
Kareeya	86.4
Wivenhoe	500.0

Tabled by: MICHAEL HART
At: SDNRAIDC ESTIMATES
Time/date: 6:53pm 25/7/18
Signature: 

Transcript:- Audio attached. 7 June 2018 ABC Radio

"The big Wivenhoe pumped storage solution that's 570 megawatts that's a coal fired power station so during the middle of the day when all these solar panels on roofs are working we're storing energy through pumping water up the top of the hill at Wivenhoe and at night-time we're driving it back down."

Tabled by: MICHAEL HART
At: SDNRAIDC ESTIMATES
Time/date: 6:53pm 25/7/18
Signature: 