



# **2021-2022 Budget Estimates**

## **Volume of Additional Information**

**Report No. 9, 57th Parliament**  
**Health and Environment Committee**  
**August 2021**

## Table of Contents

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List of Members granted leave to attend and ask questions at the hearing

Pre-hearing questions on notice and responses – *Minister for Health and Ambulance Services*

Pre-hearing questions on notice and responses – *Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs*

Documents tabled at the public hearing – 30 July 2021

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## List of Members granted leave to attend and ask questions at the hearing

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<b>1.</b>	David Crisafulli MP, Member for Broadwater
<b>2.</b>	David Janetzki MP, Member for Toowoomba South
<b>3.</b>	Jarrold Bleijie MP, Member for Kawana
<b>4.</b>	Fiona Simpson MP, Member for Maroochydore
<b>5.</b>	Ros Bates MP, Member for Mudgeeraba
<b>6.</b>	Sam O'Connor MP, Member for Bonney
<b>7.</b>	Brent Mickelberg MP, Member for Buderim
<b>8.</b>	Steve Minnikin MP, Member for Chatsworth
<b>9.</b>	Jon Krause MP, Member for Scenic Rim
<b>10.</b>	Sandy Bolton MP, Member for Noosa
<b>11.</b>	Michael Berkman MP, Member for Maiwar
<b>12.</b>	Dr Amy MacMahon MP, Member for South Brisbane

**Pre-hearing questions on notice and responses –**  
***Minister for Health and Ambulance Services***

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**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
**2021 ESTIMATES**  
**PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**No. 1**

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THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to Budget Paper 3, could the Minister please advise how the 2021–22 budget is delivering improved health services for the people living in regional Queensland?

**ANSWER:**

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to ensuring that our health system remains strong for all Queenslanders, especially those living in regional Queensland.

That is why this Budget outlines a significant \$426 million investment in capital works for new and upgraded regional hospitals, including:

- \$74.8 million to redevelop Atherton Hospital, including the emergency department and operating theatres
- \$70 million for a new mental health facility at Cairns Hospital
- \$46 million to refurbish the Thursday Island Hospital and Primary Health Care Centre
- \$39.6 million for the Fraser Coast Mental Health Project, including a new acute inpatient unit at Hervey Bay Hospital and a refurbished sub-acute specialist older persons unit at Maryborough Hospital
- \$18.2 million for the Rockhampton Hospital Cardiac Hybrid Theatre
- \$31.5 million for a purpose-built Sarina Hospital and staff accommodation
- \$5 million to upgrade the Proserpine Hospital Acute Primary Care Clinic.

The 2021–22 Budget also provides funding for health facilities such as:

- \$70 million for the Building Rural and Remote Health Program to address aging and other health-related infrastructure at Camooweal, St George, Morven, Charleville and Blackwater
- \$12.5 million for the Woorabinda Multi-Purpose Health Service to increase from four residential aged care beds to 14, and upgrade facilities
- \$12.4 million for replacement of the Windorah Primary Healthcare Centre
- \$7.2 million for the redevelopment of Moura Multi-purpose Healthcare Service.

Our pipeline of continuous works across the state means more jobs for Queenslanders in these regional areas, building upon our significant investment in boosting frontline staffing.

Over the next four years, the Palaszczuk Government will continue to boost frontline health staff, hiring an additional 9,475 frontline health workers including:

- 5,800 nurses and midwives
- 1,500 doctors
- 1,700 allied health professionals
- 475 paramedics.

These additional frontline workers are not just for the south-east corner, they will be employed across the whole state, and deployed where they are needed the most.

The Palaszczuk Government backs our frontline workforce, and we have invested in the restoration of the health service jobs cut by the Newman Government.

**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
2021 ESTIMATES**

**PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**No. 2**

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THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to page 4 of the SDS, could the Minister please advise what the budget is doing to address the needs of Queenslanders requiring elective surgery?

**ANSWER:**

Queensland Health, through Hospital and Health Services, provides both emergency and elective care to patients requiring surgery. The system provides these services in a dynamic environment which is also seeing an unprecedented growth in demand for our emergency department services.

Hospital and Health Services are working tirelessly to balance the demands of the system to deliver safe and timely access to surgical services for all Queenslanders. Queensland Health has responded to this increasing demand through a range of strategies including investment into leveraging private partnerships to expand surgical capacity where required, non-admitted reform, expansion of healthcare services and technology to deliver more connected care.

In June 2020, the Queensland Government invested \$250 million to help restore elective surgery performance which was impacted by the previous national cabinet determination to suspend non urgent elective surgery in preparation for COVID-19.

In 2021-22 further investments have been made to deliver expanded surgical access across Queensland, including increasing activity in the Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Service at Herston.

The record Health budget announced in June includes \$482.5 million for performance stabilisation which will be used to improve performance of the system and support the continued high volumes of elective surgery services.

In addition, capital investments such as the Toowoomba Day Surgery Theatre will support meeting the elective surgery needs into the future.

**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
2021 ESTIMATES**

**PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**No. 3**

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THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to page 134 of the SDS can the Minister advise how the Mental Health Commission is supporting Queenslanders, in particular during COVID-19?

**ANSWER:**

The pandemic has shown how uncertainty and intense, prolonged stressors such as physical health risks, economic hardship, insecure housing, and social isolation can affect mental health and wellbeing.

Continued economic hardship, and concerns about the end of COVID employment financial supports have seen increased stress on individuals, families, and communities.

The full impact of the pandemic on mental health and wellbeing is still unknown, and insights continue to be gained about the ongoing effects.

The Queensland Mental Health Commission (the Commission) continues to drive whole-of-government action to improve outcomes for people living with mental health challenges, problematic alcohol and other drug use, and suicidality.

Early in the response to the pandemic, the Mental Health Commissioner advocated that both physical and economic recovery requires social and human recovery. Using input from the mental health and alcohol and other drug sectors, mental health commissions across Australia, the Commission advised the Palaszczuk Government on necessary measures to address pandemic related mental health and wellbeing issues.

In August 2020, the Palaszczuk Government included a \$74.5 million Mental Health and Wellbeing whole of government package as part of the *Unite and Recover: Queensland's Economy Recovery Plan*.

The Commission supported the Department of Health to design a support package of \$28 million for non-government community-based providers to rapidly respond to community needs. A further \$46.5 million was provided to supplement public service providers to address the longer-term impacts of the pandemic, including:

- additional community mental health, drugs and alcohol treatment and responses
- specialist mental health services for people in quarantine

- additional capacity within existing alcohol and other drugs residential rehabilitation services
- localised mental health initiatives
- youth mental health.

The Commission partnered with Queensland Health to extend the *Dear Mind* positive mental wellbeing campaign to focus on mental wellbeing during the pandemic. Phase one of the campaign showed increased resilience, happiness and ability to provide support among people who had seen and engaged with the campaign.

The Commission collaborated with Beyond Blue, Queensland's Small Business Commissioner and the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training to develop: *A small business owner's guide to creating a mental health and wellbeing plan*.

I commend the Commission and all mental health clinicians, support workers and providers for their ongoing efforts to address the additional mental health challenges being experienced during the pandemic.

**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
2021 ESTIMATES**

**PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**No. 4**

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THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to page 145 of the SDS, can the Minister outline how Health and Wellbeing Queensland is delivering on improving the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders?

**ANSWER:**

In 2019, the Palaszczuk Government created Health and Wellbeing Queensland, the State's first health prevention agency to tackle some of the key risk factors that influence preventable chronic disease - obesity, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity.

In Queensland, 2 in 3 adults (2.62 million) and 1 in 4 children (0.21 million) are overweight or obese. This impacts rates of chronic disease, mental health and emergency admissions, and length of hospital stays. Obesity rates have not improved and cannot, without significant investment and precision intervention.

Through policies, programs, research, resources and partnerships, Health and Wellbeing Queensland supports all Queenslanders to have the best chance to live a healthier life, no matter who they are, or where they live. Starting with a strong focus on giving children a healthier start, advancing the wellbeing of First Nations Queenslanders and supporting our hospital and health system.

Key initiatives include:

- delivering of 10 healthy lifestyle programs, some with community partners, totalling \$22.1 million and reaching over 575,000 Queenslanders in 2020-21
- reducing inequities for Queensland recovery, growth and resilience by leading the development of a Queensland Equity Framework
- contributing \$1 million to ActiveKIT, a partnership with Queensland Sport and Recreation, to get more Queenslanders moving across all sectors
- implementing *Pick of the Crop*, a pilot school nutrition program bringing schools and farmers together to increase opportunities for children to consume vegetables and fruit, in Bowen, Bundaberg and Logan

- initiating the *Gather + Grow* program to create change at system and community levels to address food security in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- establishing a dedicated Far North Queensland Health and Wellbeing Queensland First Nations workforce to support First Nations leadership and coordination of community-based positions in the community-controlled sector
- partnering with the *Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA)* and *Local Government Association of Queensland* to address food insecurity and the Torres Strait Regional Council to deliver the *Keriba Way* (meaning 'Our Way') healthy lifestyle program
- supporting healthy eating and community-led food security actions through a \$2.1 million over three year investment with Community Enterprise Queensland and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled sector
- leading a new clinical prevention agenda to focus on obesity prevention, which has included partnering with Queensland Health on the *Clinicians Hub*, a digital platform for supporting clinicians to talk about, identify, prevent and manage childhood obesity and hosting *Project ECHO®*, an innovative online model of interprofessional education and case-based learning to build prevention capacity
- delivering evidenced-based and responsive social marketing like *Boost your Healthy*, a digital hub providing support, inspiration and ideas to help Queenslanders stay healthy and active and *Queenslandher* campaign, a digital wellbeing campaign highlighting stories of Queensland women who rose above challenging times.

Key deliverables in 2021-22 for Health and Wellbeing Queensland are:

- partnering with UQ Health Care, as part of a broader alliance with Metro South Health, Brisbane South Primary Health Network, Griffith University and The University of Queensland to develop and trial a comprehensive Lifestyle Management Program at the Logan Healthcare Centre
- establishing *The Health and Wellbeing Centre for Research Innovation* a research centre in collaboration with the University of Queensland that will conduct innovative and novel research that enables the delivery and growth of the Health and Wellbeing Queensland agenda. The total value of the research centre is planned at \$2.95 million, which will be achieved through the Health and Wellbeing Queensland and UQ partnership.

**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
2021 ESTIMATES**

**PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**No. 5**

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THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to page 2 of the SDS, can the Minister advise how the additional budget funding will support *Making Tracks, toward achieving health equity (2021-2025)* and the Palaszczuk's Government's commitment to achieving first nations life expectancy parity by 2031?

**ANSWER:**

Queensland is now leading the way nationally on First Nations peoples' life expectancy targets, with significant gains being made since the first Closing the Gap targets were agreed in 2008.

Queensland has the highest life expectancy for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females (72.0 and 76.4 years respectively), and the smallest gap in life expectancy of any jurisdiction (7.8 and 6.7 years respectively).

While Queensland has made significant progress, we know that the status quo is not enough to achieve parity in life expectancy by 2031. Harnessing our efforts to achieve health parity by 2031 is driving the Palaszczuk Government's First Nations health equity reform agenda.

New innovative approaches are required to improve and transform the design, delivery, and effectiveness of the public health system by enabling and supporting First Nations peoples' self-determination, self-management, and enhanced capabilities.

This year's budget sees the Palaszczuk Government commit an additional \$37.8 million over two years (\$14.5 million in 2021-22 and \$23.3 million in 2022-23) to support key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health priorities. These include:

- Every hospital and health service developing a Health Equity Strategy in 2021. The strategies make sure that Queensland has local plans to address local needs of local First Nations people, as prescribed by regulation. These strategies are fundamental to drive First Nations health equity in Queensland. They will be co-designed and co-implemented with local First Nations peoples and other key stakeholders, with the new funding providing capacity, and additional workforce to support this process.



- Implementation of the *Growing Deadly Families Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Maternity Services Strategy 2019-2025*. The strategy focuses on:
  - strengthening partnerships and improving collaboration across the health sector and continuum of care for maternity services
  - embedding culturally safe and effective maternity models of care in key locations throughout Queensland
  - increasing the First Nations maternity workforce through establishment of new scholarships supporting First Nations midwifery students at universities across Queensland
  - positioning Queensland to accelerate progress to set kids up for a great start to life where, by 2031, 91 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies born in Queensland will have a healthy birthweight.
- Lifting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' participation in the health system workforce, across all employment streams and occupation levels, including frontline. Expanding and strengthening the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce is crucial to improving health and wellbeing outcomes. In 2021-22 efforts to increase the First Nations workforce are focused on:
  - developing a First Nations Workforce Strategy for Queensland's health system
  - continuing incentivised education to employment pathways program
  - increasing employment through Vocational Education and Training delivery.
- Embedding the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH) Connect Plus program across South East Queensland. This coordinated and integrated regional model provides hospital to community interface to link patients to culturally appropriate community-based care.

**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
2021 ESTIMATES**

**PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**No. 6**

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THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to page 1 of the SDS, can the Minister update the Committee on the Palaszczuk Government's commitment around palliative care delivery in Queensland?

**ANSWER:**

The Palaszczuk Government continues to invest in improving the palliative care system. The commitment of \$171 million in additional investment for palliative care reform from 2021-22 to 2025-26 is the single biggest injection in new funding in palliative care in Queensland's history. It will complement existing service provision by Hospital and Health Services and contracted non-government organisations to ensure vital resources are available.

This significant investment will fund initiatives to expand and strengthen palliative care services for Queenslanders to ensure it remains high-quality, accessible and enables people to exercise genuine choice at end of life, allowing them to die with dignity no matter where you live in Queensland. As part of the investment, almost \$55 million has been allocated for new community-based care initiatives to increase home-based and after-hours care for adults and children. A key focus will be expanding services in regional, rural, and remote areas.

To support service expansion and meet expected future demand for palliative care, almost \$102.5 million is being invested to increase the number of frontline specialist palliative care workers such as nurses, allied health and other palliative care specialists. This will be guided by a workforce plan, developed in consultation with hospital and health services, which will include strategies to attract, recruit and retain staff and improve the capability of the broader workforce to provide high-quality palliative care across the State.

A new Palliative and End-of-Life Care Strategy is being developed to guide palliative care reform. As part of the development of the Strategy, different models will be explored to improve outcomes and equitable access for Queenslanders diagnosed with a terminal illness, as well as ensuring their families, carers and loved ones are supported.

The commitment to palliative care reform builds on ongoing investment in the Queensland palliative care system. In 2020-21, Hospital and Health Services have spent approximately \$149 million on palliative care services.

Also, in 2020-21, the Queensland Government provided approximately \$12.9 million in funding to non-government organisations for the delivery of palliative care services. This includes clinical palliative care services as well as training, information and awareness services.

The Queensland Government will continue to work with key stakeholders to support continuous improvement of palliative services and improve access to palliative care at home.

**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
2021 ESTIMATES**

**PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**No. 7**

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THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to page 1 of the SDS, can the Minister advise what actions have been taken by Queensland Health to support long term NDIS and aged care patients being discharged from hospital care back into more appropriate settings?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that, as at 26 May 2021, there was a total of 549 long-stay patients occupying Queensland Health beds that could live in the community if they had access to appropriate accommodation and supports which are the responsibility of the Australian Government. I am advised that this is comprised of 237 long-stay younger patients and 312 long-stay older patients.

For long-stay younger patients, service delivery gaps, access problems and 'thin markets' in the provision of disability supports have created ongoing issues at the interface between the health system and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). This is due in part to the National Disability Insurance Agency's failure to create an effective market for supported independent living and specialist disability accommodation in Queensland.

Older patients face long wait times to access Commonwealth-funded aged care services or fall through the gaps of different programs. Prolonged hospital stays place them at risk of hospital-acquired infections, deconditioning and increased complexity of needs. Long-stay patients do not require medical care and, as hospitals are not intended to be residential settings, there have been significant resource implications for Queensland Health to safely transition these patients to the community.

As part of the Palaszczuk Government's \$100 million Care4Qld Strategy to address unprecedented demand in Queensland's public hospitals, \$4 million was invested into the Long-Stay Rapid Response to support appropriate hospital discharge for patients awaiting access to disability and aged care supports.

Since commencement in April 2021, the Long-Stay Rapid Response has seen the establishment of six resources across Queensland Health dedicated to facilitating hospital discharge for long-stay patients and those at risk of becoming long-stay.

Recognising that these patients are unable to leave hospital due to the inability to access Commonwealth supports, Queensland Health has consistently advocated for the Australian Government to work with states and territories to support appropriate and safe discharge for long-stay patients.

On 23 March 2021, I formally wrote to the then Minister for the NDIS and the Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Services seeking advice on how the Australian Government will work with states and territories to facilitate long-stay patients' safe and appropriate transition to the community. This correspondence included suggested actions and referred to sensible measures introduced during the COVID-19 response that proved effective, however, were withdrawn by the Australian Government or have not been committed to recurrently.

On 30 April 2021, at the Health Ministers' Meeting, Queensland led a discussion about hospital patients awaiting Commonwealth-funded supports to transition into the community. All states and territories reported that they were experiencing similar challenges and it was agreed that a senior officers' working group would be established to develop systemic solutions for the consideration of Health and Disability Reform Ministers.

This reflected Ministers' shared understanding that systemic change, in the form of practical and innovative solutions, is required to ensure hospital beds will not be misused as homes for people who should be in the community.

**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
2021 ESTIMATES**

**PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**No. 8**

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THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

**QUESTION:**

In reference to page 1 of the SDS, can the Minister outline how the Palaszczuk Government is keeping healthcare workers safe during the COVID-19 pandemic?

**ANSWER:**

The Queensland Government values the contribution all health care workers have made and are making to provide health care during the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the pandemic began, Queensland has had in place effective infection control measures that align with national guidelines to protect patients and clinicians from COVID-19. Ensuring that adequate protections are in place for Queensland Health workers is particularly important given the rate of health care worker infections that have occurred in the workplace globally during the course of the pandemic.

The safety of every frontline worker is our priority as we continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and we have systems in place to make sure that when staff reach for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), it is there every time. No Queensland Health employee would ever be asked to treat a patient with COVID-19 unless they have appropriate PPE.

Queensland Health recognises the importance of PPE being properly fitted to ensure that it is effective in reducing the transmission of infection and has undertaken significant work involving a range of stakeholders, including infectious disease experts, to develop advice to provide clarity and consistency for decisions regarding PPE use in various pandemic and health care settings.

We have also developed guidelines regarding respiratory protection for COVID-19 to ensure consistency regarding respirator fit-testing and fit-checking processes across Queensland's 16 Hospital and Health Services.

Queensland Health has also prioritised vaccinating its healthcare workers, particularly those managing COVID-19 positive patients.

Health service employees, Queensland Ambulance Service employees and contractors that are likely to have contact with COVID-19 patients must follow specific vaccination, testing and mask-wearing requirements.

As at 29 June 2021, Designated COVID-19 Hospital Network Direction (No. 2) provides that staff must be vaccinated if they:

- work in or enter a COVID ward
- work in the ICU when a COVID-positive person or a quarantined international arrival is receiving care
- transfer COVID-positive persons by ambulance.

Staff must also have a saliva test for each shift they work, and a weekly throat and deep nasal swab if away from work for seven days or more, until 14 days have passed since they have been at work.

Staff are also required to wear a fit tested and fit checked P2/N95 mask when working on a COVID-19 ward or with a patient who has been diagnosed with COVID-19. P2/N95 masks are designed to achieve a very close facial fit and very efficient filtration of airborne particles. A state-wide audit has recently been conducted and has confirmed that Queensland Health has sufficient staff fit tested and vaccinated to work with COVID positive patients.

A guide to support implementation of fit testing has been established which Hospital and Health Services are proceeding to implement.

The Queensland Government will continue to work on ensuring that our heroic health workers have a safe working environment, during the pandemic and into the future.

**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
2021 ESTIMATES**

**PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**No. 9**

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THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to page 26 of the SDS, will the Minister outline the Queensland Ambulance Service's response time performance, what measures are being put in place to improve performance and how does Queensland compare to other jurisdictions?

**ANSWER:**

The Queensland Ambulance Service's hardworking paramedics, first responders, patient transport officers and emergency medical dispatchers continue to deliver high quality services to the Queensland community, despite a continued growth in demand for ambulance services across the state.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to ensuring it has the right resources, systems and processes in place to support the provision of ambulance services to the community. This includes an additional 60 paramedics over and above the already committed 475 ambulance staff, bringing the total to 535.

I am advised that this financial year will see 160 additional ambulance staff join the Queensland Ambulance Service and this includes additional paramedics to be rostered during peak demand times.

In 2020–21, the Queensland Ambulance Service received over one million Triple Zero (000) calls, responding on average 3,845 times a day.

I am advised the Queensland Ambulance Service responded to over 400,000 Code 1 incidents in 2020–21 with response performance to the most urgent Code 1A cases exceeding targets:

- 50 per cent responded to within 8 minutes; and
- 90 per cent responded to within 15.8 minutes.

The Queensland Ambulance Service regularly reviews and develops service delivery models to best meet the requirements of the community.

The Queensland Ambulance Service's continued ability to deliver timely and quality care, in both the acute and non-acute areas, relies directly on the continued improvement of those systems that support a diverse workforce and its performance.



The Queensland Ambulance Service continually identifies opportunities to align its organisational resources to cover peak demand periods that have been identified through its service delivery models.

Flexible work arrangements have allowed the Queensland Ambulance Service to effectively respond to emerging changes in our demand profile in an efficient and responsive manner.

Further, and with respect to the Queensland Ambulance Service's response performance, the Productivity Commission's 2021 Report on Government Services demonstrates that the Queensland Ambulance Service, at the 90th percentile for response times, is six minutes and five seconds quicker than New South Wales Ambulance, which is the most appropriate comparable ambulance service.

The Queensland Ambulance Service continues to work closely with the Department of Health and hospital and health services to develop and implement system-wide strategies to assist patient capacity pressures in hospital and health services, improving ambulance availability and response times by facilitating patient transfer of care at emergency departments, as quickly and as safely as possible.

**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
2021 ESTIMATES**

**PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**No. 10**

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THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to pages 17 and 25 of the Service Delivery Statements, will the Minister outline what initiatives the Queensland Ambulance Service has undertaken to adapt to a growing diverse workforce and in particular its obligations under the Queensland Industrial Relations Act 2016.

**ANSWER:**

The Queensland Ambulance Service workforce is a highly skilled and educated component of the broader health system, focussed on ensuring that patients and the community continue to receive care that is both timely and of a high standard of clinical quality.

Over the last 10 years, the Queensland Ambulance Service has and continues to experience a changing demographic across its workforce. In addition, changes to the legislative and industrial landscape has provided the Queensland Ambulance Service with an opportunity to continually realign service delivery models to meet the current and upcoming demands of our community.

Our continued ability to deliver timely and quality care in both the acute and non-acute areas relies directly on the continued improvement of those systems that support our diverse workforce and performance. The Queensland Ambulance Service continually looks for opportunities to align its organisational resource profile to that of the broader demand profile.

The Queensland Industrial Relations Act of 2016 part 2, Division 4 Flexible Working Arrangements, Section 27 allows for:

An employee may ask the employee's employer for a change in the way the employee works, including—

- (a) the employee's ordinary hours of work; and
- (b) the place where the employee works; and
- (c) a change to the way the employee works, for example, the use of different equipment as a result of a disability, illness or injury.

The use of flexible working arrangements has been a successful way of managing employee needs and workload pressures with over 1,100 employees currently making use of these arrangements.

The Queensland Ambulance Service consults with its employees and the United Workers Union to monitor frontline resourcing requirements and regularly reviews alternative roster patterns to provide required coverage for times of peak demand for ambulance services.

In that regard, the Queensland Ambulance Service recognises the benefits of flexible work arrangements for all members of the workforce, increasing the wellbeing and performance of individuals and teams, in alignment with a changing operational demand profile.

Flexible work arrangements have allowed the Queensland Ambulance Service to effectively respond to emerging changes in our demand profile in an efficient and responsive manner.

**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
2021 ESTIMATES**

**PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**No. 11**

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THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

**QUESTION:**

Will the Minister provide the percentage of Patient Off Stretcher Times achieved within 30 minutes for each hospital listed on the 'Queensland Reporting Hospitals' website, reported separately by calendar month for March, April, May and June?

**ANSWER:**

Queensland Health is committed to ensuring transparency in its activities and is a leader in health performance reporting. Public hospital performance reporting supports the system to be more transparent and accountable and helps consumers to make more informed choices about their health care.

The hospital performance website currently includes information about the performance of reporting hospitals in relation to emergency departments, elective surgery, specialist outpatients, hospital activity, patient experience, staffing, healthcare infections, immunisations, oral health and breast screening.

In December 2020, reporting of emergency department and elective surgery performance data was changed to quarterly to align to a number of other indicators such as specialist outpatient, hospital activity, immunisation and breast screening performance data.

While no year is specified in the question, it is assumed the question relates to March, April, May and June of 2021. Performance data is released on a quarterly basis on the Queensland Health Hospital Performance data website and, at the time of answering this question, the latest quarterly data is still being processed and will be released in the usual course.

**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
2021 ESTIMATES**

**PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**No. 12**

THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

**QUESTION:**

Will the Minister advise the five longest Patient Off-Stretcher Times by Hospital and Health Service (HHS), reported separately for the months of April, May and June?

**ANSWER:**

The Queensland Ambulance Service collects Patient Off-Stretcher Time data to enable Queensland Health to report against approved performance measures. Patients are treated according to clinical need, regardless of how they arrive at a hospital.

While no year is specified in the question, it is assumed the question relates to April, May and June of 2021. Performance data is released on a quarterly basis on the Queensland Health Hospital Performance data website and at the time of answering this question the latest quarterly data is still being processed and will be released in the usual course.

**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
2021 ESTIMATES**

**PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**No.13**

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THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

**QUESTION:**

Will the Minister advise the number of Severity Assessment Code (SAC) Incidents for SAC Categories 1 and 2, reported by HHS, and each financial year from 2015/16 – 2020/21?

**ANSWER:**

Queensland has a world-class health system that has carried us through COVID-19. Our healthcare providers, including Queensland Health staff, take seriously the safety of the patients for whom they care and provide treatment.

Queensland Health has worked hard to develop a patient safety culture that actively encourages staff to report clinical incidents and staff see these as opportunities to learn and address issues. The analysis of these incidents helps Queensland Health better understand the factors that contribute to patient incidents, and implement changes aimed at improving safety.

It is important to acknowledge that there is a degree of clinical subjectivity in deciding whether an adverse outcome is a clinical incident and this assessment may change on review. For example, a death may not have been reasonably expected and, therefore, met the definition of a SAC1 incident but is later determined to have been the result of an underlying condition.

I am advised that the preparation of the data requested would pose an unreasonable burden on the agency at a particularly busy time during COVID-19.

**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
2021 ESTIMATES**

**PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**No. 14**

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THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

**QUESTION:**

With respect to 'efficiency dividends', will the Minister advise:

- a) what is the actual dollar value amount being applied as an 'efficiency dividend' to the Hospital and Health Services in 2021-22?
- b) the value of funding withdrawn from the Hospital and Health Services as 'efficiency dividends', reported by each financial year from 2015/16 and each HHS?

**ANSWER:**

Queenslanders expect our health system to deliver excellent care, but they also expect it to be efficient.

As part of our record \$22.2 billion health budget in 2021-22, the Palaszczuk Government will deliver increased funding to each Hospital and Health Service (HHS).

The health system in Queensland continues to work to ensure that health care is delivered in the most efficient and effective way and investments are made in line with community need.

According to the most recent published national health costing data collection, Queensland remains one of the most efficient national health systems in Australia.

To continue to deliver a responsive and efficient system, an efficiency dividend may be applied as part of the broader operational funding parameters for Hospital and Health Services.

Examples of initiatives that improve efficiency and productivity include:

- new medical equipment that allows us to cut time for procedures and see more patients
- electronic medical records and timesheets
- 'Hospital in the Home' projects that treat patients at their home, freeing up hospital resources – especially important in aged care
- increases in telehealth services

- investment in better equipment in regional areas, reducing the need to transfer patients to Brisbane
- satellite hospitals in the suburbs to deliver dialysis and chemotherapy, freeing up hospital resources.

Most importantly, delivering the best possible care for Queensland remains the number one priority.

The total efficiency dividend in 2021-22 is \$96.4 million. This represents 0.6 per cent of the total published operational budget for 2021-22, and has been factored into health service agreements, consistent with previous years.

It should be noted that the funding generated by this efficiency dividend stays within Queensland Health and is re-invested into Hospital and Health Services.

As the efficiency dividend does not result in a reduction of operational funding but is a re-alignment of funding to better reflect service need, it is incorrect to state that there is a withdrawal of funding from the health care system due to the efficiency dividend.

This is not related to the Savings and Debt efficiency obligations, which the Treasurer has made it clear would not be applied to the Health portfolio this financial year.

This year's record allocation of \$16.7 billion to our Hospital and Health Services represents an increase of 4.2 per cent on 2020-21. Every HHS has had an increase to its budget in 2021-22.



**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
2021 ESTIMATES**

**PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**No. 15**

---

THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to Specialist Outpatient appointments, will the Minister provide the following information, broken down by HHS, and calendar month from February 2021 – June 2021:

- a) The number of patients waiting for an initial service event in a specialist outpatient clinic for Categories 1, 2 and 3
- b) The percentage of patients waiting within the clinically recommended time for Categories 1, 2 and 3?

**ANSWER:**

Queensland Health is committed to ensuring transparency in its activities and is a leader in health performance reporting. Public hospital performance reporting supports the system to be more transparent and accountable and helps consumers to make more informed choices about their health care.

The hospital performance website currently includes information about the performance of reporting hospitals in relation to emergency departments, elective surgery, specialist outpatients, hospital activity, patient experience, staffing, healthcare infections, immunisations, oral health and breast screening.

In December 2020, reporting of emergency department and elective surgery performance data was changed to quarterly to align to a number of other indicators such as specialist outpatient, hospital activity, immunisation and breast screening performance data.

In relation to February 2021 and March 2021 I have been advised the following from Queensland Health outlined in the tables, however it should be noted that performance data is released on a quarterly basis on the Queensland Health Hospital Performance data website and at the time of answering this question the latest quarterly data is still being processed and will be released in the usual course.

## Specialist Outpatient Waitlist

HHS	Category	Total waitlist	
		1 Mar 2021	1 Apr 2021
Cairns and Hinterland	1	1,201	1,260
	2	8,500	8,713
	3	7,043	7,143
Children's Health Queensland	1	578	639
	2	5,645	5,409
	3	7,114	7,026
Central Queensland	1	653	680
	2	3,540	3,391
	3	6,817	6,933
Darling Downs	1	406	382
	2	1,612	1,588
	3	6,678	6,273
Gold Coast	1	1,391	2,487
	2	13,131	13,808
	3	13,734	13,598
Mackay	1	802	969
	2	3,652	3,318
	3	3,597	3,417
Mater Health Service	1	239	141
	2	1,886	1,787
	3	3,988	3,671
Metro North	1	3,279	3,194
	2	16,704	16,927
	3	23,453	23,514
Metro South	1	5,574	5,584
	2	16,211	17,158
	3	19,252	22,285
North West	1	134	135
	2	516	483
	3	542	535
Sunshine Coast	1	1,712	1,705
	2	6,467	6,217
	3	9,224	9,384
Townsville	1	630	624
	2	4,561	4,706
	3	5,701	5,710
Wide Bay	1	508	432
	2	1,886	1,886
	3	4,405	4,545
West Moreton	1	422	452
	2	3,467	3,647

HHS	Category	Total waitlist	
		1 Mar 2021	1 Apr 2021
	3	3,773	3,861
State (includes transfers to MHS)	1	17,529	18,684
	2	87,778	89,038
	3	115,321	117,895

Source: Specialist Outpatient Data Collection (last updated 14/07/2021), Mater Health Service

## Specialist Outpatient waiting within clinically recommended time

HHS	Category	Total waiting within clinically recommended time Per cent	
		1 Mar 2021	1 Apr 2021
Cairns and Hinterland	1	64.1%	62.5%
	2	34.7%	39.8%
	3	72.4%	73.0%
Children's Health Queensland	1	75.1%	80.1%
	2	50.0%	56.2%
	3	85.0%	87.4%
Central Queensland	1	76.6%	82.9%
	2	51.5%	50.3%
	3	65.4%	64.9%
Darling Downs	1	98.5%	98.2%
	2	86.5%	88.9%
	3	84.0%	87.4%
Gold Coast	1	62.8%	76.0%
	2	26.9%	29.7%
	3	69.3%	70.8%
Mackay	1	68.8%	70.9%
	2	51.5%	50.5%
	3	79.3%	80.7%
Mater Health Service	1	100.0%	100.0%
	2	100.0%	100.0%
	3	99.8%	99.7%
Metro North	1	70.8%	71.4%
	2	60.2%	62.6%
	3	80.1%	83.2%
Metro South	1	51.3%	54.6%
	2	40.9%	46.7%
	3	79.2%	83.4%
North West	1	67.9%	71.1%
	2	74.0%	78.7%
	3	98.3%	98.7%
Sunshine Coast	1	60.1%	63.2%
	2	51.2%	56.3%
	3	77.4%	77.8%

HHS	Category	Total waiting within clinically recommended time Per cent	
		1 Mar 2021	1 Apr 2021
Townsville	1	95.1%	97.9%
	2	82.1%	83.4%
	3	94.1%	94.3%
Wide Bay	1	95.9%	94.9%
	2	76.0%	75.7%
	3	91.1%	92.7%
West Moreton	1	73.2%	75.4%
	2	52.6%	55.6%
	3	78.6%	79.5%
State (includes transfers to Mater Health Service)	1	65.2%	67.9%
	2	49.7%	52.1%
	3	79.4%	80.9%

Source: Specialist Outpatient Data Collection (last updated 14/07/2021), Mater Health Service

**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
2021 ESTIMATES**

**PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**No. 16**

---

THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

**QUESTION:**

For each Hospital listed on the 'Queensland Reporting Hospitals' website, will the Minister advise the dollar value of capital maintenance work required at each facility?

**ANSWER:**

Queensland Health spends around \$390 million a year (combination of operational and capital expenditure) in maintaining its built infrastructure portfolio.

Our maintenance budget needs to be understood in context. Queensland Health owns more than 2,100 buildings and structures, or approximately \$18.4 billion in built infrastructure assets, across the state. Our maintenance spend, while significant, is an investment in making sure those assets – including our hospitals – can continue to deliver quality and safe services to the people of Queensland.

Regular site inspections allow Queensland Health to assess and monitor the condition of facilities. All Queensland Government asset owners, including Hospital and Health Services, must comply with the Whole of Government *Maintenance Management Framework Policy*. The policy requires all buildings to be assessed by site inspection at least every three years, depending on the nature of the facility.

Maintenance items identified during the inspections are risk assessed and prioritised.

They can include everything from repainting a hallway, to resurfacing a carpark, to replacing electrical wiring in a hospital wing.

We've become more effective at maintaining our asset base through better targeting and prioritisation. What this means is that the assets that most need it – theatres, hospital wards, treatment areas, clinical operations – are prioritised over things like administration facilities and non-patient-facing areas.

Importantly, maintenance items that may have an impact on patient safety are always prioritised, and only items that can be safely deferred are scheduled over the forward years.

The anticipated capital maintenance values, reported separately by Queensland Reporting Hospital as at 15 July 2021, are reflected in the table below.

<b>Queensland Reporting Hospital</b>	<b>Anticipated Capital Maintenance (\$M)</b>
Atherton Hospital	\$0.00
Ayr Hospital	\$1.19
Babinda Hospital	\$0.25
Bamaga Hospital	\$10.00
Barcaldine Hospital	\$2.87
Beaudesert Hospital	\$0.50
Biggenden Hospital	\$0.28
Biloela Hospital	\$1.0
Blackall Hospital	\$0.53
Blackwater Hospital	\$0.34
Boonah Hospital	\$0.96
Bowen Hospital	\$0.00
Bundaberg Hospital	\$8.55
Caboolture Hospital	\$25.58
Cairns Hospital	\$18.80
Caloundra Hospital	\$1.23
Capricorn Coast Hospital	\$0.01
Charleville Hospital	\$6.66
Charters Towers Hospital	\$5.61
Cherbourg Hospital	\$0.94
Childers Hospital	\$1.74
Chinchilla Hospital	\$2.15
Clermont Hospital	\$0.00
Cloncurry Hospital	\$3.80
Cooktown Hospital	\$55.00
Cunnamulla Hospital	\$0.42
Dalby Hospital	\$4.23
Dirranbandi Hospital	\$0.22

<b>Queensland Reporting Hospital</b>	<b>Anticipated Capital Maintenance (\$M)</b>
Doomadgee Hospital	\$1.35
Dysart Hospital	\$0.00
Eidsvold Hospital	\$0.70
Emerald Hospital	\$0.32
Esk Hospital	\$2.19
Gatton Hospital	\$0.18
Gayndah Hospital	\$0.23
Gin Gin Hospital	\$0.11
Gladstone Hospital	\$1.58
Gold Coast University Hospital	\$71.22
Goondiwindi Hospital	\$0.58
Gympie Hospital	\$7.05
Hervey Bay Hospital	\$7.20
Hughenden Hospital	\$4.40
Ingham Hospital	\$1.51
Innisfail Hospital	\$2.20
Ipswich Hospital	\$2.42
Jandowae Hospital	\$0.16
Joyce Palmer Health Service	\$2.49
Julia Creek Hospital	\$0.57
Kilcoy Hospital	\$0.10
Kingaroy Hospital	\$0.30
Laidley Hospital	\$1.61
Logan Hospital	\$26.30
Longreach Hospital	\$3.43
Mackay Base Hospital	\$0.00
Maleny Hospital	\$1.50
Mareeba Hospital	\$0.80

<b>Queensland Reporting Hospital</b>	<b>Anticipated Capital Maintenance (\$M)</b>
Maryborough Hospital	\$6.10
Miles Hospital	\$0.16
Millmerran Hospital	\$0.57
Mitchell Hospital	\$0.06
Monto Hospital	\$0.96
Moranbah Hospital	\$0.00
Mornington Island Hospital	\$0.79
Mossman Hospital	\$0.00
Mount Isa Hospital	\$9.05
Mount Morgan Hospital	\$0.00
Moura Hospital	\$0.09
Mundubbera Hospital	\$0.79
Mungindi Hospital	\$0.10
Murgon Hospital	\$0.67
Nambour Hospital	\$7.90
Nanango Hospital	\$1.05
Normanton Hospital	\$3.13
Oakey Hospital	\$0.59
Princess Alexandra Hospital	\$176.42
Proserpine Hospital	\$0.37
Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Hospital	\$32.53
Queensland Children's Hospital	\$3.3
Quilpie Hospital	\$0.23
Redcliffe Hospital	\$9.90
Redland Hospital	\$16.26
Robina Hospital	\$35.61
Rockhampton Base Hospital	\$0.00
Roma Hospital	\$0.15



<b>Queensland Reporting Hospital</b>	<b>Anticipated Capital Maintenance (\$M)</b>
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital	\$165.00
Sarina Hospital	\$0.00
Springsure Hospital	\$0.52
St George Hospital	\$0.16
Stanthorpe Hospital	\$1.76
Sunshine Coast University Hospital	\$0.00
Surat Hospital	\$0.12
Tara Hospital	\$2.33
Taroom Hospital	\$0.30
Texas Hospital	\$0.01
The Prince Charles Hospital	\$35.19
Thursday Island Hospital	\$0.34
Toowoomba Hospital	\$53.69
Townsville University Hospital	\$19.74
Tully Hospital	\$0.00
Wandoan Hospital	\$0.01
Warwick Hospital	\$7.76
Weipa Hospital	\$1.63
Winton Hospital	\$0.27
Woorabinda Hospital	\$0.001

**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
2021 ESTIMATES**

**PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**No. 17**

---

THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

**QUESTION:**

Will the Minister advise the number of Queensland Health frontline staff who have been vaccinated against COVID-19, broken down by:

- a) Hospital and Health Service
- b) The vaccine they have received
- c) Staff who have received their first vaccination
- d) Staff who have received both vaccinations?

**ANSWER:**

As at 17 July 2021, at least 83,400 Queensland Health employees (which includes frontline staff) have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine from a Queensland Health vaccination location.

This equates to 72.9 per cent of the total Queensland Health employee cohort.

A total of 70,202 Queensland Health employees (which includes frontline staff) have received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine from a Queensland Health vaccination location.

This means 61.3 per cent of the total Queensland Health employee cohort are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

These figures do not include employees who may have received their vaccination through other avenues, including their general practitioner. Queensland Health is working with the Australian Government to explore the feasibility of accessing the Australian Immunisation Register to understand how many Queensland Health staff have been vaccinated through these other avenues.

As has been previously advised, the vaccination of frontline phase 1a health workers reached practical completion in April.

Hospital and health service (HHS) breakdown for doses 1 and 2 (provided at a Queensland Health vaccination site) is provided in the table provided.

I am advised that Queensland Health staff vaccinations by HHS and COVID-19 vaccination status as at 17 July 2021 (and employee data as at 5 July 2021) are:

HHS	Total Employees	# Employees Vaccinated at least 1 dose	% Employees Vaccinated at least 1 dose	# Employees Vaccinated - 2 doses	% Employees Vaccinated – 2 doses
Cairns and Hinterland	7,889	5,895	74.72	5,210	66.04
Central Queensland	4,885	3,003	61.47	2,259	46.24
Central West	563	368	65.36	238	42.27
Children's Health Queensland	5,149	4,041	78.48	3,244	63.00
Darling Downs	7,144	4,118	57.64	2,985	41.78
Gold Coast	12,263	9,400	76.65	8,932	72.84
Mackay	3,475	2,241	64.49	1,737	49.99
Metro North	25,154	19,355	76.95	16,346	64.98
Metro South	19,536	15,237	77.99	13,041	66.75
North West	989	679	68.66	499	50.46
South West	1,144	777	67.92	549	47.99
Sunshine Coast	8,979	6,483	72.20	5,879	65.47
Torres and Cape	1,207	714	59.15	346	28.67
Townsville	7,514	5,468	72.77	5,050	67.21
West Moreton	5,055	3,595	71.12	2,772	54.84
Wide Bay	4,906	3,158	64.37	2,247	45.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>114,439</b>	<b>83,400</b>	<b>72.88</b>	<b>70,202</b>	<b>61.34</b>

Source: Employee Vaccinations Dashboard, Queensland Health Central Business Intelligence team. Extracted by Queensland Health Vaccine Command Centre.

**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
2021 ESTIMATES**

**PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**No. 18**

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THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to Question on Notice 470, Will the Minister provide an update to the number of 'Code Yellow' instances in 2021 (reported separately by year, hospital, and duration of each 'Code Yellow' instance)?

**ANSWER:**

A 'code yellow' is not a cause for alarm. It is a mechanism that Queensland hospitals use to allocate and prioritise resources appropriately.

Queensland's hospitals are experiencing extraordinary demand.

Despite this, our most urgent and critical patients will always be treated first, no matter when or how they arrive at our hospitals.

Nobody will ever be turned away.

A code yellow is defined in the Australian Standard *Planning for emergencies – Health care facilities* as an 'event that impacts the facility and may be caused by an internal or external event which may adversely affect service delivery and/or safety of persons requiring a response'.

Under the *Queensland Health Disaster and Emergency Incident Plan*, a 'code yellow' emergency is defined as 'Loss of Essential Services (including chemical emergencies)'.

Examples of situations in which a code yellow may be activated include internet outages, disruption to telephone services, failure of, or disruption to, electricity, water, information communication and technology systems, structural damage, and incidents involving hazardous substances.

I am advised that for 2021, as at 30 June 2021, 103 code yellows, or equivalent, have been activated in Queensland hospital and health services (HHSs).

Most of the code yellow activations were stood down within 24 hours, with only 15 extending beyond 24 hours.

These code yellow activations occurred in 14 of the 16 HHSs.

Calling a code yellow is a responsible measure taken by hospitals, often due to external pressures beyond the control of the hospital, and will often be called in the early stages, rather than waiting for the peak pressure point, to ensure a coordinated response and allocation of resources.

When a code yellow is called, a system-wide response is required both within an HHS and across HHS borders, to support the HHS to return to regular function. There are regular examples of HHSs and Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) working as a networked system, supporting each other during times of extreme demand to transfer patients to facilities where beds are available.

As incident management protocols are managed at a local level by hospital and health services, there is not a statewide platform for recording code yellow activations. Reporting of code yellow incidents are dependent on notifications by HHSs into the State Health Emergency Coordination Centre.

I am advised that the below table provides an indicative account of code yellow notifications from 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2021.

<b>Hospital and health service</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>Total number of code yellows</b>
Gold Coast	1
Metro South	2
Metro North	24
Children's Health Queensland	1
West Moreton	4
Darling Downs	9
South West	14
Sunshine Coast	4
Wide Bay	0
Central Queensland	3
Mackay	2
Townsville	0
Cairns and Hinterland	10
Torres and Cape	2
North West	25
Central West	2
<b>Queensland</b>	<b>103</b>

**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
2021 ESTIMATES**

**PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**No. 19**

---

THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

**QUESTION:**

Will the Minister advise:

- a) How many people who died in Queensland during 2020/21 and had COVID-19 listed on their Death Certificate had prior comorbidities; and
- b) Whether any of the COVID-19 cases detected or 'deaths' in Queensland since 1 January 2021, had received a vaccination against the virus; and
- c) What payments have been made to residential aged care facilities and hospitals involved in managing the care of patients who died and had COVID-19 listed on their death certificates?

**ANSWER:**

Queensland has recorded seven COVID-19 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic. All of these individuals had evidence of prior comorbidities, which are defined as conditions known to be risk factors for increased severity of COVID-19.

The vaccination status of individuals is held by the Commonwealth, not Queensland Health. It is important to note that six of the seven people who have tragically died from COVID-19 while in Queensland died before any approved vaccine was available.

Queensland has not had any deaths from COVID-19 in residential aged care settings.

Specific payments relating to COVID-19 deaths are not made by Queensland Health to hospitals or residential aged care facilities.

**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
2021 ESTIMATES**

**PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**No. 20**

---

THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

**QUESTION:**

The most recent QHFSS Annual Report refers to research on “engineered nanoparticles” by staff member, Dr Tatiana Komarova, who claims the particles have unknown toxicological properties that have been incorporated into a wide range of consumer (food) and industrial products.

Will the Minister advise:

- a) whether nanoparticles are being added to foods in Queensland and by whom;
- b) whether food labelling laws enforced by the Minister's department require that producers record the presence of nanoparticles in foods and whether the department is investigation breaches of labelling laws where the presence of nanoparticles is not stated on labelling;
- c) whether the department has approved the inclusion of nanoparticles in foods; and
- d) whether the department has undertaken any testing to gauge the likely effects of the ingestion of engineered nanoparticles on human health?

**ANSWER:**

Honourable members may benefit from understanding the scientific context of the question.

It relates to a section in the Queensland Health Forensic and Scientific Services 2018 Annual Research Report. The section, which is quoted below, was advising the laboratory was investigating the use of a new instrument and software to increase their analytical capability to identify and quantify nanoparticles in a wide range of sample types:

*“Engineered nanoparticles are being incorporated into a wide range of consumer and industrial products. They have unique properties which are determined by their composition, size, shape and surface identity. These properties determine the fate of the particles in the environment and the nature of their interaction with biological systems. Due to novel physical and chemical characteristics of the nanoparticles, there are aspects of their environmental fate and toxicological properties that are unknown. There is a growing need for an accurate and sensitive technique for*

*characterising and quantifying nanoparticles in a wide range of sample types to assess their potential risk for the environment and population. With the most recently purchased instrument, the Agilent Triple Quadrupole inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer (ICP-QQQ) and specialised software for nanoparticles, the work in this area will enhance the analytical capabilities within the laboratory.”*

**a) Are nanoparticles being added to foods in Queensland and by whom?**

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is responsible for developing and maintaining food standards, which are enforced by state and territory governments. Any new food additive or food manufactured using nanotechnologies that may present safety concerns must undergo a comprehensive scientific safety assessment by FSANZ before it can be legally sold. Under the national Food Regulation Agreement, Queensland Health does not generally have the power to develop food standards.

Some food additives naturally contain nanoscale particles. These may legally be added to some foods through permissions in the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code*. There is little evidence to suggest nanotechnologies are being used in the food industry on a wide scale, although a lot of research is being undertaken on potential applications.

**b) Do food labelling laws enforced by the Minister’s department require that producers record the presence of nanoparticles in foods and whether the department is investigation breaches of labelling laws where the presence of nanoparticles is not stated on labelling?**

Under the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code there are no specific food labelling laws for nanoparticles in food. Food additives, some of which may contain nanoscale size particles, must be declared on the labels of packaged foods. Food labels must comply with the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code. All food manufacturers and suppliers are also required by law to ensure food sold in Australia is safe and suitable.

Queensland Health investigates legitimate complaints of foods not complying with the compositional and labelling requirements of the Food Standards Code.

**c) Has the department approved the inclusion of nanoparticles in foods?**

Under the national Food Regulation Agreement, Queensland Health does not generally have the power to develop food standards.

Any new food additive or food manufactured using nanotechnologies that may present safety concerns must undergo a comprehensive scientific safety assessment by FSANZ before it can be legally sold.

To date FSANZ has not received an application to amend the Food Standards Code in relation to a new or novel nanotechnology.



**d) Has the department undertaken any testing to gauge the likely effects of the ingestion of engineered nanoparticles on human health?**

Queensland Health relies on the expert toxicological advice of FSANZ, which is monitoring developments in the use of nanotechnology with food.

FSANZ has adopted a range of strategies to ensure public health and safety is protected. An expert review has been completed for FSANZ on nanotechnology and its applications, particularly with food additives and packaging. They are monitoring local and international research and commercialisation of manufactured nanomaterials as part of an intergovernmental task force on nanotechnology.

**Pre-hearing questions on notice and responses –  
*Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef  
and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs***

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## **HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

### **Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice**

**No. 1**

**Asked on Wednesday, 14 July 2021**

**THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—**

**QUESTION:**

Will the Minister provide an update on the Container Refund Scheme with regards to how many containers have been exchanged and prevented from going to landfill since the scheme was established and how many jobs the program has supported?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the question.

As at 18 July 2021, more than 4.39 billion containers had been recovered for recycling. Over 3.51 billion of these were returned for a refund through the network of 313 active container refund points, with more than 884 million recovered through Material Recovery Facilities as part of kerbside recycling services.

This has returned more than \$347 million in refunds to individuals, around \$4 million to charities, schools and not-for-profit organisations and \$88 million shared between local councils and Material Recovery Facility operators.

Since the scheme started on 1 November 2018, 783 full-time equivalent jobs have been created across Queensland. The scheme has helped create opportunities for long-term unemployed, supports social enterprise jobs and provides an additional avenue for fundraising activities for charities, schools and community groups. Many of these jobs are in regional areas.

The legislation requires that all containers that have had a refund paid on them must be recycled. Not only has the scheme prevented valuable recyclable material from going to landfill it has also helped reduce the amount of beverage containers, and other litter, in the environment. According to litter survey results from November/December 2020, beverage container litter reduced by 48 per cent from the pre-Container Refund Scheme baseline survey. Surveys show that, as a proportion of total litter, the Container Refund Scheme has continued to reduce the level of beverage container litter.

## HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

### Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 2

Asked on Wednesday, 14 July 2021

**THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—**

#### QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide an update on the government's air quality monitoring activities, with particular reference to key industrial zones like the Townsville Port and the Gladstone region?

#### ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Department of Environment and Science currently operates a state-wide network of 29 stations that continuously monitor ambient air quality. These stations are located in Queensland's major population centres, including those with significant industrial sources such as Gladstone, Townsville and Mount Isa.

A number of industrial facilities in these centres are also required to monitor air quality as a condition of their Environmental Authority under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. Data from a further 21 industry-operated continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations is reported to the department.

The information from the ambient air quality monitoring network is used to assess community exposure against standards and goals, identify long-term trends in air quality, and assess the effectiveness of air quality management strategies.

Each of the monitoring stations report data hourly to the department's website to keep the community, industry and government informed of the quality of the ambient air in near-real time. This information is available on the department's website at <https://apps.des.qld.gov.au/air-quality/>. In addition, all the continuous air monitoring data collected by the department is publicly available through the Queensland Government's Open Data web portal at <https://www.data.qld.gov.au/>.

The department manages eight air monitoring stations in the Gladstone region, from Boyne Island in the south to Targinie in the north. These measure pollutants typical of local industry emissions including sulfur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, carbon monoxide and particles. Local industries contribute \$192,500 (GST exclusive) annually to the cost of maintaining this network. In addition, the department works with the Air Quality Gladstone Community Group on programs to develop and maintain air quality awareness within the community.

In Townsville, the department operates an air monitoring station in the North Ward community approximately 2.5 kilometres west of the Townsville Port. Together with Port of Townsville Limited, the department jointly manages a second station at the Townsville Coast Guard on the Port boundary. To assist individual Port users in meeting their Environmental Authority conditions, the Port of Townsville operates a network of three Port boundary air monitoring stations, which includes the Coast Guard station, measuring particles and airborne metals. Following commissioning of its metals analyser, the Port of Townsville will assume full operation of the Coast Guard station from August 2021. The Port of Townsville is, and will continue to, providing data from the three Townsville Port boundary monitoring stations on an hourly basis.

The department operates one air quality monitoring station in Mount Isa, measuring sulfur dioxide, particles and airborne metals. The department's monitoring performs an audit role for the more extensive industry monitoring network operated by Mount Isa Mines that is used for air quality compliance.

To improve the safety of Queenslanders exposed to smoke from bushfires and other sources, the department has been allocated \$5.4 million over four years from 2020-21 to expand air quality monitoring into communities where there is no current monitoring. Priority locations for the 2021 fire season determined in consultation with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Queensland Health include Ayr, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Maryborough, Toowoomba and south east Queensland. Where complementary to the primary aim of assessing community smoke exposure, other factors such as monitoring of industry impacts will be considered when locating the new monitoring equipment.

## **HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

### **Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice**

**No. 3**

**Asked on Wednesday, 14 July 2021**

**THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—**

#### **QUESTION:**

Will the Minister provide an update on the government's \$5.5 million investment to further protect and restore Newstead House and the benefits it will have for Queensland's built-heritage as well as opportunities for local business and jobs as part of the conservation works?

#### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the question.

This State has a diverse range of heritage places. The Queensland Government is committed to protecting Queensland's built heritage to ensure it is conserved and enjoyed by the community today and future generations.

Newstead House, which retains an 1846 cottage at its core, is Brisbane's earliest surviving European residence. Generations of Queenslanders have formed a special association with this place because of its historic and social importance. The adjacent former electricity Substation No. 5 was built in the 1920s and once helped power the city's tramway system. Both buildings are culturally significant and, along with the park they stand inside, are entered in the Queensland Heritage Register.

The Queensland Government has committed increased funding of \$5.492 million over two years for urgent remedial conservation works for Newstead House and the Substation to ensure the protection and integrity of this heritage-listed property. It is anticipated that the works will be delivered over two years, starting from 2021-22.

Given the specialised nature of this project, a best practice heritage conservation approach to the delivery of the work is required. Conservation work will be packaged and undertaken by Queensland-based, skilled heritage tradespeople and heritage experts, further supporting the State's economy. By engaging apprentices, this project will provide a unique training experience that will foster and transfer important heritage skills and knowledge to the next generation of specialist tradespeople.

## **HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

### **Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice**

**No. 4**

**Asked on Wednesday, 14 July 2021**

**THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—**

**QUESTION:**

In relation to the Department of Environment and Science SDS page 3, can the Minister provide an update on the government's protected area grazing policy and how the budget will further benefit the restoration of natural and cultural values of national parks?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Queensland Government recognises grazing is inconsistent with the cardinal principle of national parks, that being the conservation of nature. Current grazing authorities are primarily the legacy of existing use arrangements on former State forest areas that have been converted to national park.

While valid grazing authorities on national parks issued under past governments will be allowed to continue until the end of their current terms, the policy position is they will not be renewed or extended.

The impacts of grazing on protected areas are well known and include trampling and compaction, erosion, promotion of weeds, and loss or modification of fauna habitat.

The funding allocated in the budget will support the Department of Environment and Science to manage the expiry of grazing authorities on national parks. Expenditure can involve compensation costs for lawful improvements made by the authority holder, and costs to return the areas to their natural state and manage the expiry process. Costs may also include removing unwanted infrastructure and constructing boundary fencing where necessary.

The department will work with graziers to ensure the natural and cultural values of national parks are maintained appropriately when grazing ceases. This maintenance will be in line with specific management instructions, and the fire and pest management strategies in place for each park.

Grazing will continue to be supported on State forest tenure, where most of the grazing currently occurs, and on conservation park and resources reserve tenures where it can be demonstrated to be consistent with the management and other uses of the area.

## **HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

### **Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice**

**No. 5**

**Asked on Wednesday, 14 July 2021**

**THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—**

**QUESTION:**

In relation to the Department of Environment and Science SDS page 9, can the Minister provide an update on how the Queensland Government is growing the capacity of future leaders through the provision of youth leadership programs?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to growing the capacity of young people as future leaders through continued delivery of two flagship leadership and development programs.

This year, the Department of Environment and Science delivered the 17th annual Queensland Indigenous Youth Leadership Program. Since 2004, the program has provided more than 600 young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders the opportunity to develop skills and perspectives as emerging leaders to bring positive change to their local communities.

The program includes an Eric Deeral Indigenous Youth Parliament day delivered by the Queensland Parliamentary Service, providing participants with an opportunity to grow their understanding of Parliament processes and experience first-hand delivering speeches in the Parliamentary chambers.

The program receives wide ranging support from community leaders, Elders and Members of Parliament. It is driven by young people, for young people, with past participants returning as facilitators and mentors each year.

The confidence and skills young people gain through this program are invaluable. Many participants go on to develop initiatives within their community and on to careers in social and community development, education, health, the environment, enterprise, and arts and culture.

For example, a participant of the 2020 program from Townsville returned as a mentor in 2021 and decided to use the knowledge and skills developed to start a community project delivering a boxing class for young people in her local community. Due to its success, she is currently looking to expand the project by supporting adults in the community also.



Launched in April this year, the 26th annual YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament delivers a bi-partisan leadership program that creates a unique opportunity for young Queenslanders across the State to become Youth Members of their electorates and speak directly to Government.

This year, 93 young people representing each Queensland electorate are experiencing unique educational opportunities and parliamentary operation first-hand. Young Members are developing Bills for debate during their annual sitting week which will be held from 26 September to 2 October 2021.

These programs are examples of how the Queensland Government is growing the capacity of future leaders and supporting young people by providing opportunities to develop leadership and civic engagement skills. They will also join the alumni network of emerging leaders to connect with Government, achieving great things for themselves, their communities and our State into the future.

## HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

### Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 6

Asked on Wednesday, 14 July 2021

**THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—**

QUESTION:

Can the Minister outline the government is expanding and properly managing Queensland's protected area estate?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

Since February 2015, protected areas in Queensland have increased by over 1.18 million hectares. Queensland's protected area system now covers an area more than twice the size of Tasmania and includes the largest private protected area network in Australia.

On 3 October 2020, the Queensland Government released *Queensland's Protected Area Strategy 2020-2030*, a ten-year plan for supporting the growth, management and sustainability of national parks and other protected areas. An initial investment of \$60 million over four years has been allocated to implement the Strategy, which includes:

- \$28 million for expanding the public protected area estate;
- \$8 million to continue the Nature Refuge Program and deliver an expanded NatureAssist toolkit to landowners; and
- \$24 million to expand the Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger program.

The Department of Environment and Science (the department) continues to grow the protected area estate through a range of dedications including acquisitions, upgrades of existing government land deemed suitable, native forest transfers and expansion of private protected areas.

In 2020–21:

- over 33,000 hectares were added to Queensland's public protected area estate; and
- 624 hectares were added to the private protected area network through the declaration of eight new nature refuges.

The department is engaged in a number of advanced commercial-in-confidence negotiations with landholders from across the State with a view to entering into contracts of sale for priority land acquisitions and new conservation agreements to establish private protected areas.

The department uses an adaptive management cycle, the Values-Based Management Framework, to deliver our management obligations on protected area and forest estate. The framework aligns planning and prioritisation with operational delivery, monitoring and evaluation of performance – ensuring evidence-based decisions guide future management effort and resourcing.

The framework prioritises management of key values on protected areas – natural, cultural, social or economic – by identifying the threats and ensuring management effort is targeted towards maintaining or improving the condition of the key values. Regular ‘health checks’ on the key values ensures we are monitoring the condition over time and provides information on management effectiveness.

The framework aligns with international best-practice and supports transparent delivery of complex management obligations across the protected area estate.

## **HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

### **Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice**

**No. 7**

**Asked on Wednesday, 14 July 2021**

**THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—**

#### **QUESTION:**

Can the Minister outline how the Department of Environment and Science is assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders organisations to conserve and restore land and sea country?

#### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Department of Environment and Science has a number of programs which assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to conserve and restore land and sea country, as well as manage their traditional land and sea country autonomously.

The Department of Environment and Science's Strategic Plan 2021-2025 commits to strengthening partnerships with First Nations peoples and their organisations to ensure First Nations' knowledge and leadership is embedded in our systems, policies and programs. Frontline staff work in partnership with First Nations organisations to co-steward the protected area estate ensuring that we engage and collaborate on activities to protect, conserve and restore the natural and cultural values of country.

For example, the Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Program has created 2.17 million hectares of jointly managed national park on Cape York Peninsula. In addition, 26 First Nations landholding entities manage 1.5 million hectares of Aboriginal freehold land for which they have sole responsibility.

To support the management of Aboriginal freehold land, the program will provide coordination, logistical assistance, mentoring, training, governance guidance and support to comply with legislative obligations to collectively achieve conservation and land management outcomes. This ensures strong organisations which can deliver effective conservation outcomes, economic development and job creation.

The program works with Traditional Owners to conduct field assessments and operational works which document the ecological and cultural significance of Aboriginal lands and delivers aspirations to care for country. This information assists landholding entities to apply for grants and recurrent funding to manage country into the future.

The Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program partners with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations through grant arrangements to employ more than 100 Indigenous Land and Sea rangers across 24 of Queensland's regional and remote communities.

The program provides training, networking and partnership support for ranger groups to care for country and culture. The Queensland Government has committed to doubling the program over the next three years, with funding of \$24 million for an additional 100 rangers.

The Looking After Country Grants program provides annual funding of \$500,000 to First Nations communities to conserve and manage environmental and cultural heritage on country.

Through implementation of the Gurra Gurra Framework 2020–2026, the Department of Environment and Science is reframing relationships with First Nations peoples by holding Country and people at the centre of all that we do, from policies and programs to service delivery.

The Land Restoration Fund (LRF) has also assisted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations through both its pilot projects and investment rounds. The LRF's first investment round saw six projects funded, for a total of \$61.67 million, that will deliver Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander co-benefits, along with other outcomes including reforestation of native forests, improving water quality to the Great Barrier Reef, and future works that will drive job creation in addition to the carbon credits.

The LRF Pilot Project Program also funded three projects for \$1.28 million focused on improving opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to take advantage of the cultural and employment opportunities of carbon farming. These include: \$200,000 project led by Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation Pty Ltd that delivered a strategic analysis of Cape York Peninsula fire patterns to increase carbon abatement; \$340,000 to Gidarjil Development Corporation which is supporting a collective carbon farming project using traditional mosaic and fire-stick farming practices to control non-native species; and \$742,500 to a project led by Yambangku Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Tourism Development Aboriginal Corporation, which is delivering a Human Induced Regeneration carbon project demonstrating cultural, economic, social and environmental returns on a grazing property.

The department is committed to creating permanent and productive relationships with First Nations peoples to work in partnership to build a strong and shared future.

## **HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

### **Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice**

**No. 8**

**Asked on Wednesday, 14 July 2021**

**THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—**

#### **QUESTION:**

With reference to the Department of Environment and Science SDS page 7, can the Minister provide an update on the department's actions to meet its targets for removing declared crocodiles as well as the government's ongoing investment in its CrocWise program?

#### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the question.

In 2021-22, the Department of Environment and Science has been allocated \$12 million over four years and \$3 million per annum ongoing for its estuarine crocodile management program.

This is the first time the crocodile management program has had permanent ongoing funding which will be used to:

- help maintain public safety by responding to crocodile sighting reports and removing 'problem crocodiles';
- deliver community 'Crocwise' safety education and communication; and
- undertake applied research into new techniques and crocodile management solutions.

In 2020-21, the department responded to 958 estuarine crocodile sighting reports and removed 46 problem crocodiles from the wild – most of which were placed with crocodile farms or zoos.

At my request the department has established an independent expert evaluation committee to undertake an evaluation of the current approach to crocodile management, including the 'Crocwise' public safety and education program.

The committee is chaired by the Queensland Chief Scientist and includes a range of independent experts across a range of key fields. It is expected the committee will report on its findings later this year.

## **HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

### **Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice**

**No. 9**

**Asked on Wednesday, 14 July 2021**

**THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—**

#### **QUESTION:**

In relation to the Department of Environment and Science's SDS page 3, will the Minister outline how the investment of \$9.5 million for the delivery of enhanced vegetation mapping is supporting landholders, jobs and economic benefit in new industries like biodiversity trading?

#### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to protecting the environment we live in and to supporting our community and business sectors.

Our investment of \$9.5 million in enhanced vegetation mapping is providing the best available science data and information to support a range of Government initiatives aimed at protecting our environment and providing opportunities for natural capital investment for land managers and businesses.

The enhanced vegetation mapping program has developed an integrated vegetation mapping framework. Innovative methods are used to map and monitor change in the extent and condition of woody vegetation in Queensland. Data from this initiative directly informs vegetation management and a range of on-ground management programs to protect the Great Barrier Reef. Vegetation mapping is also a key input to biodiversity conservation and management. This data is already being used to update and improve Regional Ecosystem mapping and koala habitat monitoring and assessment.

The scientific data and expert advice that the program provides is being used by policy-makers and regulators in all levels of Government, and industry and landholders seeking to capitalise on biodiversity offsets and carbon and natural capital markets that account for biodiversity co-benefits. This includes those consistent with the United Nations System of Environmental Economic Accounting such as the Land Restoration Fund. The vegetation condition mapping framework provides a biodiversity measure that is consistent with the new international statistical standard prepared by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting that has been adopted as a reporting framework by CSIRO and the Australian Government. The Department of Environment and Science is working collaboratively with Queensland's agricultural industries to provide scientific information and advice on this program.

These schemes provide income streams for landholders who restore vegetation and improve its condition for biodiversity and emissions reductions. The mapping outputs will do this by showing and quantifying measurable change in vegetation extent and condition over time. It will also be used to inform environmental, social and governance investment by multi-nationals and philanthropic individuals or organisations.

The scientific information and data products from this initiative will be freely available to landholders, and small businesses who service regional and rural landholders to support the integrity and transparency of their environmental accounts. It potentially also supports industry and small to medium enterprises in environmental consulting, agriculture, and the emerging space economy.



## **HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

### **Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice**

**No. 10**

**Asked on Wednesday, 14 July 2021**

**THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—**

#### **QUESTION:**

Can the minister provide an update on how DES are using technology to inform compliance action and the work of the Ipswich Odour Abatement Taskforce?

#### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Department of Environment and Science has invested in new and evolving technologies to support environmental compliance in the Ipswich area and across the State.

The department uses a range of technologies to support its compliance activities. This includes drones, real time air monitoring stations and odour detection technology to name a few. The use of technology can improve information and evidence gathering whilst also enhancing officer safety.

The department has invested substantially in building its remotely piloted aircraft systems. Civil Aviation Safety Authority licensed pilots are located in departmental offices across the State, including an officer permanently located in Ipswich.

Drones are used to monitor regulated activities such as suspected unlicensed waste operations, illegal dumping and unlawful tyre stockpiles. Drones can be used to undertake volumetric surveys of landfills and resource recovery areas to ensure compliance with the State's waste levy framework. Drones are also used in other activities such as water quality monitoring and to support incident response activities such as inspecting hazardous environments.

The Odour Abatement Taskforce also uses technology to support its compliance activities. The Taskforce has trialled the use of a drone in air quality monitoring, recently invested in technology called Envirosuite that provides real time wind data and is also trialling the use of odour detection technology called electronic noses (e-noses).

Envirosuite is used to support odour investigations in the Ipswich area. It can accurately identify probable sources of odour, which is critical for an industrial area like the Swanbank area where there are many possible odour sources. Envirosuite uses real-time visualised wind data from six wind stations strategically located around the Swanbank area. This informs the Taskforce about when nuisance odours may be experienced in the community and enables the Taskforce to plan in-field odour monitoring operations more accurately.

E-noses have an array of sensors that detect odorous components and their intensity in the air. The e-nose remotely monitors and provides alerts to the Taskforce if a predetermined limit is exceeded. This enables Taskforce officers to investigate the odour and determine if an offence has occurred.

The department continues to invest in and trial new technology to improve access to real time information, enhance its compliance activities, improve officer safety and efficiency.

## **HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

### **Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice**

**No. 11**

**Asked on Wednesday, 14 July 2021**

**THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—**

**QUESTION:**

Can the Minister outline how much has been spent to date in the prosecution of Linc Energy and its management?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Department of Environment and Science has incurred \$11.1 million in legal expenses over a seven-year period since the commencement of these proceedings.

The legal fees have been incurred in relation to the successful 2018 prosecution of Linc Energy Limited, where the company received the highest fine in Queensland's history for an environmental prosecution of \$4.5 million, and the ongoing prosecution of four former Linc Energy Limited executive officers.

Given that the matter remains before the Court, it would not be appropriate to comment further at this time.

## **HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

### **Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice**

**No. 12**

**Asked on Wednesday, 14 July 2021**

**THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—**

#### **QUESTION:**

Can the Minister provide a breakdown on each program the waste levy will fund in FY21/22, detailing the amount of funding provided and purpose of each program?

#### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Queensland Government has committed to reinvesting 70% of waste levy revenue generated in the first three years of operation to advance payments to councils, scheme start-up and operational costs, industry programs and other environmental priorities.

In 2021-22, the Queensland Government will allocate \$194.37 million to deliver existing and new resource recovery initiatives, to support the implementation of Queensland's Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy, administered by the Department of Environment and Science.

The purpose of waste management and resource recovery programs is to provide enhanced environmental and economic outcomes for Queensland communities. Allocated funds for 2021-22 include up to \$160 million for the continuation of annual council levy rebates. Annual payments are calculated on the basis of returning 105% of direct levy costs to local government to facilitate improved resource recovery.

The following table details the indicative funding allocation and purpose for programs administered by the Department of Environment and Science, that the waste levy will fund in the 2021-22 financial year.

<b>Program</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Funding Allocated for FY 21/22 (\$M)</b>
Annual Payments and associated levy impact mitigation programs	To offset the cost of waste disposed to landfill and ensure that there is no impact of the waste levy on households or eligible charitable recyclers.	Up to 162.41
Priority Waste Stream Policy and Programs	Programs to support action on priority wastes including organics, plastic pollution textiles, e-waste and associated material specific action plans	3.35
Resource Recovery Infrastructure & Recycling Programs	Infrastructure planning and development, including First Nations Infrastructure Plans, programs to support regional recycling and circular economy initiatives	4.51
Litter and Illegal Dumping Programs and other Environmental Priorities	Programs to address impacts of litter and illegal dumping including grants to local governments and Community Sustainability Action Grants	7.01
Levy Compliance and Administration	Funding for levy compliance, administration and statutory reviews	17.09
<b>Total</b>		<b>194.37</b>

## HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

### Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 13

Asked on Wednesday, 14 July 2021

**THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—**

#### QUESTION:

Can the Minister outline how many ecotourism applications the department has received and approved broken down by year and category of approval since 2015, including the number of approvals to date for 2021, and all available data on the approval of accommodation proposals, Indigenous experiences and proposals on the Great Barrier Reef specifically?

#### ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

Since being created in December 2017, the Department of Environment and Science has issued five ecotourism approvals, and declined one proposal. Two projects have been withdrawn by proponents.

Year	Applications assessed and approved by DES	Applications assessed and declined by DES	Applications withdrawn by proponent	Concepts received and under development
2018	-	1	1	1
2019	2	-	1	3
2020	2	-	-	-
2021 (to date)	1	-	-	-

One project is being revised by a proponent based on feedback from the department. Three projects are being led by local councils and detailed feasibility studies, environmental studies and/or business cases are under development.

The department is also working collaboratively with the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport on the Queensland Ecotourism Trails program, including the Cooloolo Great Walk, Wangetti Trail and Paluma to Wallaman Falls Trail.

All ecotourism proposals on Queensland's protected areas are assessed under the Department of Environment and Science's *Queensland Ecotourism Investment Opportunities Implementation Framework - Ecotourism Facilities on National Parks*. The Framework aims to identify projects that will be in the public interest, will be ecologically sustainable, and will provide, to the greatest possible extent, for the preservation of the land's natural condition and protection of cultural values and resources. Applicants are encouraged to have pre-lodgement meetings with the department to address suitability prior to proposals being lodged.

Key ecotourism achievements include:

- completion of two major ecotourism projects—the Scenic Rim Trail and the Green Mountains Campground are both operational and in high demand with local and interstate visitors;
- delivering the \$22.65 million Mon Repos redevelopment project as a world-class attraction that showcases one of Queensland’s best wildlife experiences;
- implementing the \$2.375 million Significant Regional Infrastructure Project Program to expand moorings and reef protection markers across the Great Barrier Reef to boost tourism and recreation use and reduce impacts on coral ecosystems;
- working with the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport on the delivery of the Queensland Ecotourism Trails program. Deliverables include: the completion of the Mowbray River Pedestrian Bridge on the Wangetti Trail; agreement and execution of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement and Cultural Heritage Management Agreement with Traditional Owners; appointment of Wagners CFT to the design and construct tender for Wangetti South work package; appointment of CABN as the Preferred Proponent on the Cooloola Great Walk; and progression of *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* project approvals;
- construction of the Ngaro Walking Track on Whitsunday Island and working with the Ngaro Traditional Owners to design suitable low-impact, ecologically sustainable ecotourism opportunities along the track;
- engaging with the Traditional Owners to explore options to upgrade the Thorsborne Trail, including existing campgrounds and providing guiding opportunities for visitors walking the trail;
- delivering streamlined and consumer-focused online experiences for Queensland’s protected areas—including a new online booking service, social media and new consumer website; and
- developing Toolkits to guide ecotourism operators progressing through government planning and regulatory systems and to guide enhancements of interpretation and experience delivery.

The Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport is also supporting ecotourism through:

- the \$25 million Great Barrier Reef Island Resorts Rejuvenation Program; and
- support for 33 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses to develop new tourism products and experiences throughout the State through the Growing Indigenous Tourism in Queensland Fund.

## HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

### Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 14

Asked on Wednesday, 14 July 2021

**THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—**

#### QUESTION:

Can the Minister provide the amount of land budgeted to be purchased for protected areas by hectare, as a percentage of Queensland's total land area in FY21-22 and outline how much additional land the Department has identified for future acquisitions in both total area and cost?

#### ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

*Queensland's Protected Area Strategy 2020-2030*, released in October 2020, details a range of strategies to continue growth of the protected area estate including:

- acquiring suitable properties for dedication as national and/or conservation park;
- continuing investment to support expansion of private protected areas such as nature refuges and special wildlife reserves; and
- upgrades of existing Government-owned land deemed suitable, such as native forest that has ceased harvesting or unallocated State land.

The Queensland Government has allocated an initial investment of \$60 million over four years to *Queensland's Protected Area Strategy 2020-2030*. This includes \$28 million for expanding the public protected area estate.

This investment is in addition to \$6.5 million committed to strategic land acquisitions and tenure dealings on the Cape York Peninsula and \$6 million allocated for four years from 2020-21 for the Great Barrier Reef Island Arks project.

Further information on the Department of Environment and Science's 2021-22 land acquisition budget can be found in the *Queensland Government 2021-22 Budget Paper 3 – Capital Statement*.

Land acquisitions involve extensive negotiations with landholders, including regarding the size of the land area to be acquired, the cost of the acquisition and transitional arrangements for the land.

Commercial-in-confidence negotiations are well advanced with a number of landholders from across the State, with a view to entering into contracts of sale for priority land acquisitions. Once these contracts have reached settlement, the Queensland Government will be in a position to announce the area of the land secured for the Queensland protected area estate.



The department does not state publicly the priorities for acquisition to ensure confidentiality is maintained and property valuations are able to be negotiated based on open market values.

## HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

### Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 15

Asked on Wednesday, 14 July 2021

**THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—**

#### QUESTION:

Can the Minister detail how many prosecutions or fines have been issued under the existing reef protection regulations since their inception, and what penalties were enforced?

#### ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The enhanced compliance program in relation to the Reef Protection Regulations which commenced in 2019, is an essential tool to achieve the Reef water quality targets and our commitments to the World Heritage Committee. In 2017, the report by the World Heritage Centre to the Committee explicitly acknowledged Queensland's progress towards improved monitoring and compliance with regulated standards for agricultural run-off.

The current Reef Compliance Program commenced in March 2016. To date, no sugarcane growers have been prosecuted or fined. However, 25 sugarcane growers have been issued a formal warning as a result of continued non-compliance with record-keeping, soil testing and fertiliser application requirements under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, and two statutory notices have been issued requiring the production of records. A number of further investigations into potential non-compliances are currently underway.

The Reef Compliance Program has focused on sugarcane producers since its commencement. The program is currently expanding to include other agricultural commodities such as bananas, grazing and horticulture. Consistent with any new regulatory program, there has been significant work undertaken to engage with as many industry stakeholders as possible to promote the regulatory obligations, educate individual growers and foster voluntary compliance.

The Department of Environment and Science proactively meets with producers to firstly ensure they understand what is required, and then at follow-up visits to ensure they have made any required farm practice changes to comply with the legislative requirements. While non-compliance rates were high at initial meetings (55 per cent), this rate has declined to 35 per cent upon follow-up visits, reflecting a substantial shift by producers to voluntarily change their farm practices after the initial inspection.

While the department has invested in an approach to encourage voluntary compliance, it is committed to enforcing non-compliance with the Reef protection regulations. The department has commenced proportionate escalation of enforcement with some growers through the issuing of warning notices. This escalation is consistent with contemporary regulatory practice and is in accordance with the department's *Enforcement Guidelines*.

Punitive enforcement is generally not the first step in managing non-compliance. The department has a suite of tools, including statutory notices, that can be exercised as part of the ongoing enforcement approach.

## **HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

### **Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice**

**No. 16**

**Asked on Wednesday, 14 July 2021**

**THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—**

#### **QUESTION:**

Can the Minister provide the total amount of funding committed to the announced FOGO kerbside collection trials across the state for 2021-22, and detail if there are any further funds allocated to support the rollout of FOGO kerbside collection in the 2021-22 financial year?

#### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Department of Environment and Science is working with three local governments—the Lockyer Valley Regional Council, Townsville City Council and Rockhampton Regional Council to trial Food Organics, Garden Organics (FOGO) kerbside collection services in each local government area.

A total of \$770,000 has been awarded across the three councils, of which \$616,000 was paid in the 2020-21 financial year. A further \$77,000 is allocated in 2021-22 to be paid on completion of grant milestones. The remaining funding will be paid upon completion of all trial and reporting requirements in the 2022-23 financial year.

The Department is currently developing an Organic Strategy which will outline future opportunities for additional FOGO kerbside collection services.

## HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

### Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 17

Asked on Wednesday, 14 July 2021

**THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—**

**QUESTION:**

Can the Minister provide a breakdown by individual project of funding spent and expected length of project to date for each approved Land Restoration Fund project?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the question.

In 2019, 12 pilot projects under two programs were approved under the Land Restoration Fund (LRF). A total of \$2,670,752 has been expended to date on pilot projects.

Details of the six projects approved under the Kickstart the Market Program including payments to date are detailed below:

<b>Project name</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Expiry Date</b>	<b>Project Total</b>	<b>Spend to Date</b>
LRF013 – Kickstarting Cassowary Credits for Carbon and Community	27/05/2019	05/09/2020	\$184,979	\$184,979
LRF091 – Kickstarting action carbon, culture, ecology and economies in Cape York	11/07/2019	31/08/2021	\$200,000	\$200,000
LRF040 – Blue Carbon Opportunities in Queensland: how much and where?	22/05/2019	22/06/2020	\$198,569	\$198,569
LRF023 – Strategic analysis of Cape York Peninsula Fire patterns leading to increased carbon credits through optimised regional management	3/05/2019	30/08/2020	\$200,000	\$200,000
LRF010 – Facilitating adoption of the Beef Cattle Herd Management Method as a foundation for the LRF in North West Queensland	23/05/2019	23/06/2020	\$195,723	\$195,723
LRF035 – Protecting Threatened Species and Restoring Grazing Land	23/05/2019	28/02/2021	\$208,600	\$208,600
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$1,187,871</b>	<b>\$1,187,871</b>

Details of the six projects approved under the Catalysing Action Program including payments to date are detailed below:

<b>Project name</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Expiry Date</b>	<b>Project Total</b>	<b>Spend to Date</b>
LRF032 – Blue Carbon and Farm Land Restoration	11/09/2019	11/12/2024	\$693,000	\$311,850
LRF117 – Tradition meets Innovation - Gidarjil Development Corporation Carbon Project Alliance	25/02/2020	25/02/2023 (Activity End)  25/02/2030 (Final ACCU Delivery)	\$340,000	\$142,500
LRF124 – Counting the co-benefits: Carbon, connectivity, koalas and water	14/09/2020	14/09/2025 (Activity End)  14/09/2030 (Final ACCU Delivery)	\$668,850	286,650
LRF061 – Permanent Tropical Reforestation with Native Conifers, Riparian & High Biodiversity Rainforest Plantings	18/03/2020	18/03/2025 (Activity End)  18/03/2030 (Final ACCU Delivery)	\$745,750	\$121,081
LRF062 – Murra Yambangka Carbon Project	09/11/2020	09/11/2024 (Activity End)  09/11/2035 (Final ACCU Delivery)	\$742,500	\$343,300
LRF114 – Active landscape management pilot	25/11/2019	25/02/2025	\$750,000	\$277,500
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$3,940,100</b>	<b>\$1,482,881</b>

In relation to the projects by the LRF Investment Panel for Investment Round 1 2020, I can advise that no payments have yet been made to these projects. New carbon farming projects are required to become unconditionally registered with the Clean Energy Regulator, which is a condition precedent of the LRF contracts. Over \$10 million is expected to be made in contract payments by 30 June 2023, including over \$7 million in advance payments to support the early development of these projects.

<b>Project Details</b>	<b>Duration of Project</b>
R1015 – Central Cape York Regional Savanna Fire Project	15 years
R1026 – Mungalla Carbon Project	16 years
R1034 – Multi-species pasture cropping to sequester carbon in soil in Gladstone	15 years
R1038 – Beef and Conservation for the Future (BC4)	10 years
R1040 – Environmental Plantings in the Burnett Catchment	16 years
R1050 – Lake Dalrymple Watershed	15 years
R1054 – Boreelum Carbon Project	15 years
R1057 – Restoring box-gum grassy woodland for threatened species of the Nandewar bioregion	16 years
R1058 – Corner Country to Bulloo River carbon and habitat restoration project	15 years
R1062 – Ivanhoe Timber Retention Project	5 years
R1063 – Burnham Regenerative Production Project	10 years
R1065 – Northern Aurukun Savanna Burning Project	15 years
R1072 – Kinrara Dry Tropics Regeneration Project	15 years
R1073 – West Albany Regeneration Project	15 years
R1083 – Saltwater Creek Carbon Project	16 years
R1086 – Tablelands Regional Integrated Agriculture Carbon Project	16 years

## **HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

### **Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice**

**No. 18**

**Asked on Wednesday, 14 July 2021**

**THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—**

#### **QUESTION:**

On page 7 of the Service Delivery Statement, the number of overnight visitors in national parks is provided. Can the Minister detail how much revenue this raised in 2020-21, and how much is projected for 2021-22?

#### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the question.

During the COVID-19 pandemic camper nights across the State increased in some parks by over 50 per cent, with a total of 1.6 million camper nights achieved in 2020-21, compared to previous annual averages of around 1.3 million.

In 2020-21, almost 720,000 people camped in Queensland parks and forests with camping permit numbers increasing from 206,129 in 2019-20 to 347,578 in 2020-21.

This high demand resulted in revenue raised for camping in 2020-21 of \$9.9 million.

Revenue projected for 2021-22 is \$9.7 million which recognises demand may stabilise as other travel options become available.

This information is for Department of Environment and Science managed camping sites only.



## HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

### Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 19

Asked on Wednesday, 14 July 2021

**THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—**

#### QUESTION:

In regard to new regulations administered by the Minister's department requiring cane farmers and other farmers to carry out agricultural ERAs, will the Minister advise: (a) when the regulation commenced; (b) the maximum penalties that apply to offences against the regulation; (c) when farmers and other landholders were advised by the department of their new obligations under the regulation and how they were informed; (d) the period farmers now have in which to enact nitrogen and phosphorous budgets to fully comply with the regulation; (e) the number of agricultural advisors in Queensland who are registered with the QRIDA and who can prepare nutrient management budgets with soil tests and crop growth requirements to enable farmers to meet their obligations under the regulation; and (f) what steps the department is taking to assist those farmers who are unable to access an advisor registered with the QRIDA to have the required nitrogen and phosphorous budgets prepared within the time available for them to comply?

#### ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

(a) The Reef protection regulations commenced on 1 December 2019 and are being rolled out over three years. Since 1 December 2019, all graziers, sugarcane and banana producers in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin, Mackay Whitsunday, Fitzroy and Burnett Mary regions must keep records under the agricultural environmentally relevant activity standards. Other industry specific practices under the standards must be complied with from:

- 1 December 2019 for:
  - sugarcane in the Wet Tropics, Mackay Whitsunday and Burdekin regions;
- 1 December 2020 for:
  - bananas in the Wet Tropic region; and
  - grazing in the Burdekin region;
- 1 December 2021 for:
  - grazing in the Fitzroy region; and
- 1 December 2022 for:
  - bananas in the Burdekin, Mackay Whitsunday, Fitzroy and Burnett Mary regions;
  - grazing in the Wet Tropics, Mackay Whitsunday and Burnett Mary regions; and
  - sugarcane in the Fitzroy and Burnett Mary regions.

(b) The maximum penalties are found in the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*:

- for contravening an agricultural environmentally relevant activity standard – 1,665 penalty units (\$299,520.25) if wilfully committed, or 600 penalty units (\$82,710) if not wilfully committed (section 82); and
- for an advisor who gives tailored advice about carrying out an agricultural environmentally relevant activity that they know, or ought reasonably to know, is false or misleading – 600 penalty units (\$82,710) (section 85).

If not committed wilfully, contravening a minimum practice standard is most likely to be the subject of a penalty infringement notice, with a fine of:

- for record keeping requirements – \$689.25 for an individual or \$3,446.25 for a corporation; and
- for all other requirements – \$2,067.75 for an individual or \$10,338.75 for a corporation.

Penalties are not automatically imposed. If a person is prosecuted and found guilty or pleads guilty, it is up to a court to determine an appropriate penalty depending on the circumstances of any non-compliance. The court will exercise judicial discretion and determine what sentence to impose. In doing so, the court takes into account factors such as, the person's cooperation with the administration of justice, and the need to deter the person and others from future offending.

There are a range of other enforcement actions available to the Department of Environment and Science besides prosecution, such as warning notices. The department aims to work with producers to meet the requirements and will respond to ongoing non-compliance in accordance with its Enforcement Guidelines. To date, no fines have been issued or prosecutions undertaken.

(c) The agricultural industry was informed of the proposed Reef protection regulations through consultation processes that commenced from December 2015 and continued until commencement of the agricultural environmentally relevant activity standards on 1 December 2019. This involved targeted stakeholder consultation with industry groups and formal public consultation processes including inviting submissions on a discussion paper and Regulatory Impact Statement. Peak industry groups consulted included AgForce, Queensland Farmers' Federation, Australian Cane Farmers Association, CANEGROWERS, Australian Banana Growers' Council, Australian Sugar Milling Council, Fertilizer Australia and Natural Resource Management bodies. These groups subsequently informed their membership about the ongoing consultation.

Public hearings and a public invitation to make a submission on the Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 also occurred as part of the review of the Bill by the former Queensland Parliament Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee. Targeted stakeholder consultation was undertaken on successive drafts of the proposed agricultural environmentally relevant activity standards and also on subordinate legislation.

In 2019, the Department of Environment and Science used the following mechanisms across all regulated Reef regions to advise farmers, landholders and agricultural advisors of their obligations:

- attending industry events and hosting meetings with regional industry representatives in November to talk about the Reef protection regulations;
- hosting ‘drop-in’ information centres during November and December where farmers, advisors and members of the public could attend and access copies of the standards and factsheets, and ask departmental staff questions. These were held in Tully, Innisfail, Charters Towers, Mackay, Ingham, Rockhampton, Ayr and Bundaberg;
- radio and print advertising during November and December; and
- information made available through peak group newsletters, direct Government newsletter emails and Government websites, including publishing detailed web content on the Queensland Government website at [www.qld.gov.au/ReefRegulations](http://www.qld.gov.au/ReefRegulations).

Since that time, the department has continued to use a range of mechanisms to advise farmers, landholders and agricultural advisors of their obligations under the Reef protection regulations. This includes attending agricultural industry events and meetings to deliver presentations or answer questions; making information packs, fact sheets and flyers available at events such as the Australian Banana Industry Congress, Hort Connections, Rockhampton Landholder Expo and AG-GROW 2021; undertaking education and compliance activities; undertaking further consultation activities; and supporting farmers to make practice change through initiatives such as the Grazing Resilience and Sustainable Solutions program, known as GRASS. The department has also directly engaged with more than 50 businesses involved in providing agricultural advice and hosted more than 20 meetings with advisors to inform them of their obligations under the Reef protection regulations.

- (d) As of 1 December 2021, sugarcane producers in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin and Mackay Whitsunday regions must develop a farm nitrogen and phosphorus budget prior to fertilising. Depending on the district, fertilising is expected to occur in March or April 2022. The same requirement will commence from 1 December 2022 for sugarcane producers in the Fitzroy and Burnett Mary regions.
- (e) A rebate of up to \$1,000 per farmer to offset the costs of obtaining professional agronomic advice about the agricultural environmentally relevant activity standards is only available from Queensland Rural Industry Development Authority if the advice is from an accredited agricultural advisor. Of the 70 agricultural advisors accredited by the Queensland Rural Industry Development Authority, 50 are accredited to prepare nutrient and phosphorous budgets.
- (f) Growers can seek support to prepare a farm nitrogen and phosphorus budget from any advisor that meets the definition of an appropriate person under the agricultural environmentally relevant activity standard for sugarcane. They are not limited to using accredited agricultural advisors registered with the Queensland Rural Industry Development Authority.

Growers can also be considered an appropriate person if they have the qualifications, training or skills and experience relevant to completing a nitrogen and phosphorus budget and have acquired these skills through a training program recognised by the department. The “Fertcare” competency-based training course provided by Fertilizer Australia is one training program recognised by the department.

Growers participating in practice change projects funded under the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program will not be required to pay for an advisor to complete their nitrogen and phosphorus budget if this is provided as part of the agronomic nutrient management support provided in the project.

## **HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

### **Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice**

**No. 20**

**Asked on Wednesday, 14 July 2021**

**THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—**

#### **QUESTION:**

Given the value of the Great Barrier Reef to the Queensland economy and claims made by organisations such as the GBRMPA about risks to the reef posed by farm pesticides, will the Minister advise what funding is provided in the budget for her Office of Science to undertake research to gauge the presence of pesticides in flora and fauna on the reef, and the adverse impacts of these pesticides?

#### **ANSWER:**

Pesticides are one of the primary pollutants that pose an ongoing risk to Reef coastal and marine ecosystems. Over the last five years (2016-17 to 2020-21) of the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan, the Department of Environment and Science (through the Great Barrier Reef Catchment Loads Monitoring Program) has allocated more than \$4 million on pesticide monitoring and decision support tools. This funding includes:

- collection and analysis of more than 9,600 samples, obtained from an average of 41 sites per year;
- partnering with regional samplers to support the monitoring program;
- development of an online Pesticide Reporting Portal maintained by the department, to host pesticide concentration data collected by the Great Barrier Reef Catchment Loads Monitoring Program for 22 reference pesticides (directly compared with the most up to date published ecosystem protection guideline values);
- development of a Pesticide Risk Metric to estimate the combined risk associated with mixtures of up to 22 pesticides. This tool was developed by the department in collaboration with The University of Queensland; and
- a collaborative arrangement with The University of Queensland to access subject matter experts in pesticide science.

The Pesticide Risk Metric has been used to communicate pesticide risk in several online reporting mechanisms, including the Great Barrier Reef Catchment Loads Monitoring Program Story Map, the Mackay Whitsunday Regional Report Card, the Wet Tropics Regional Report Card and the Reef Water Quality Report Card 2019.

In the 2021-22 financial year, there will be ongoing collection, analysis and publication of pesticide data and ongoing development of the pesticide risk tools with a similar overall annual contribution budgeted from the department.

## Documents tabled at the public hearing – 30 July 2021

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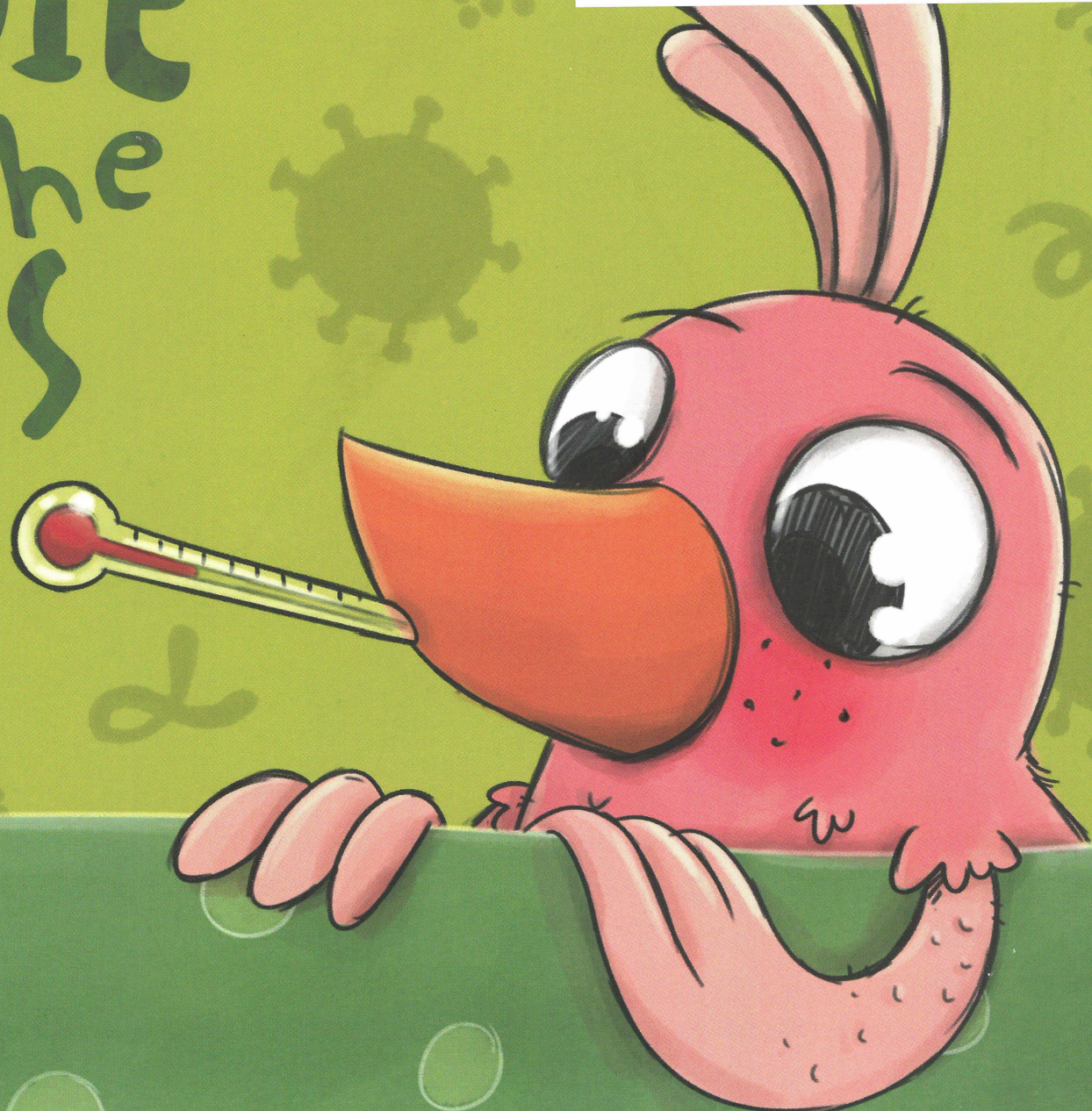
<b>1.</b>	Tabled by Hon Yvette D'Ath MP, Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (with leave of the committee) - Book titled 'Birdie and the Virus by Andrea Baldwin and Andrea Tortop.
<b>2.</b>	Tabled by Sam O'Connor MP, Member for Bonney (with leave of the committee) – Document titled 'Reef finding 2014-15 to 2023-24'.
<b>3.</b>	Tabled by Hon Meaghan Scanlon MP, Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs (with leave of the committee) – Graph titled 'Emissions from land use'.
<b>4.</b>	Tabled by Hon Meaghan Scanlon MP, Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs (with leave of the committee) – Graph titled 'Number of new large scale renewable projects coming online'.



CHILDREN'S HEALTH QUEENSLAND

ANDREA BALDWIN & ANIL TORTOP

# BIRDIE and the VIRUS



Tabled by: Hon Y D'Ath MP  
At: HEC Estimates Public Hearing  
Time/date: 12:43 PM 30/07/2021  
Signature: Lynda Rattray



ANDREA BALDWIN & ANIL TORTOP  
**BIRDIE**  
and the  
**VIRUS**







## **Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service**

Queensland Centre for Perinatal and Infant Mental Health

**[www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/natural-disaster-recovery](http://www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/natural-disaster-recovery)**

The Birdie's Tree books and resources have been created on the traditional lands of the Turrbal and Jagera people. Queensland Centre for Perinatal and Infant Mental Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of all land and sea countries throughout Australia, and pays respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past, present and emerging.

Birdie and the Virus

ISBN: 9780648817208

First published in Australia in 2020

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Queensland Centre for Perinatal and Infant Mental Health

Written by Andrea Baldwin

Illustrated by Anil Tortop

Designed by Ozan Tortop

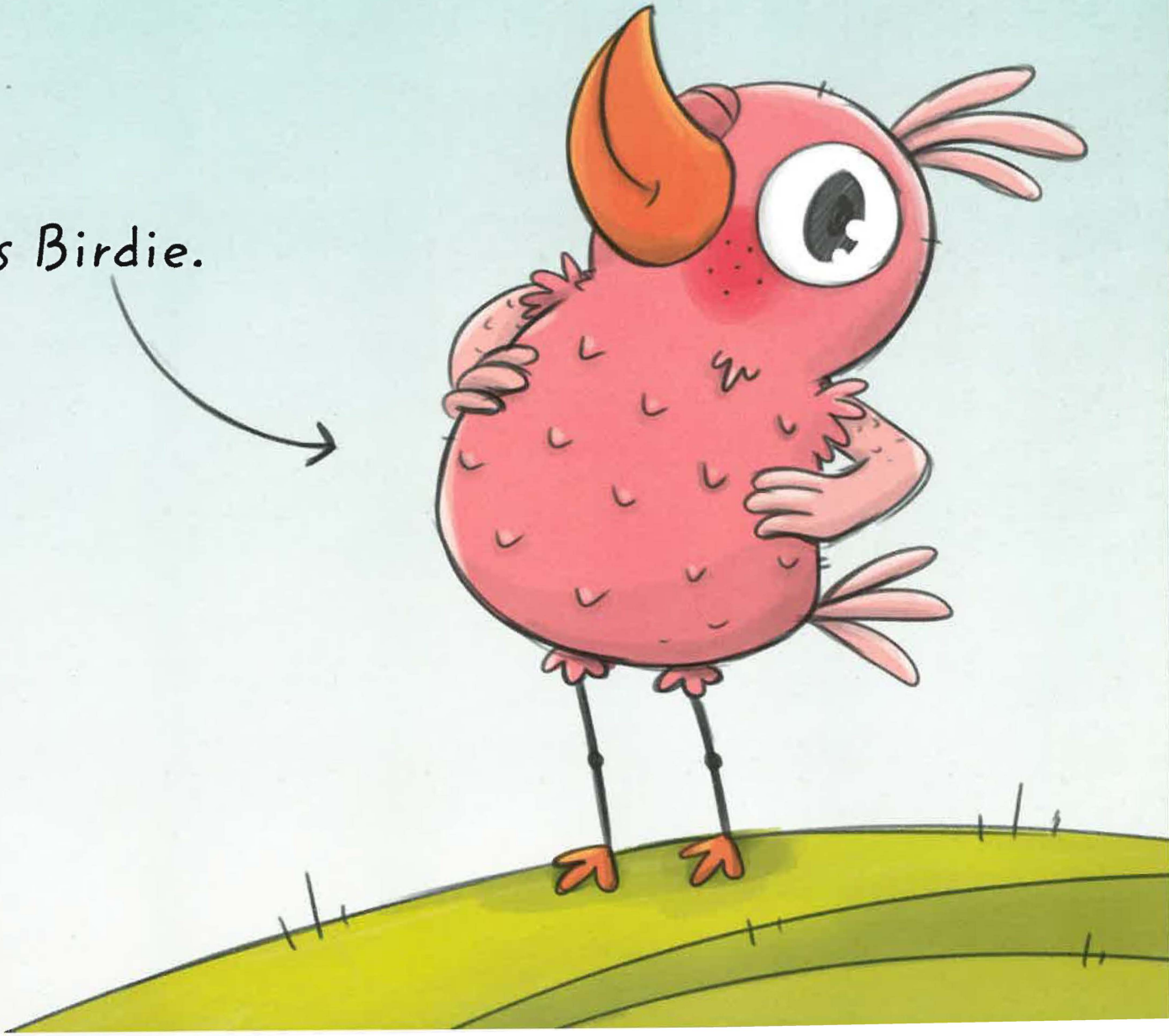
[tadaabook.com](http://tadaabook.com)

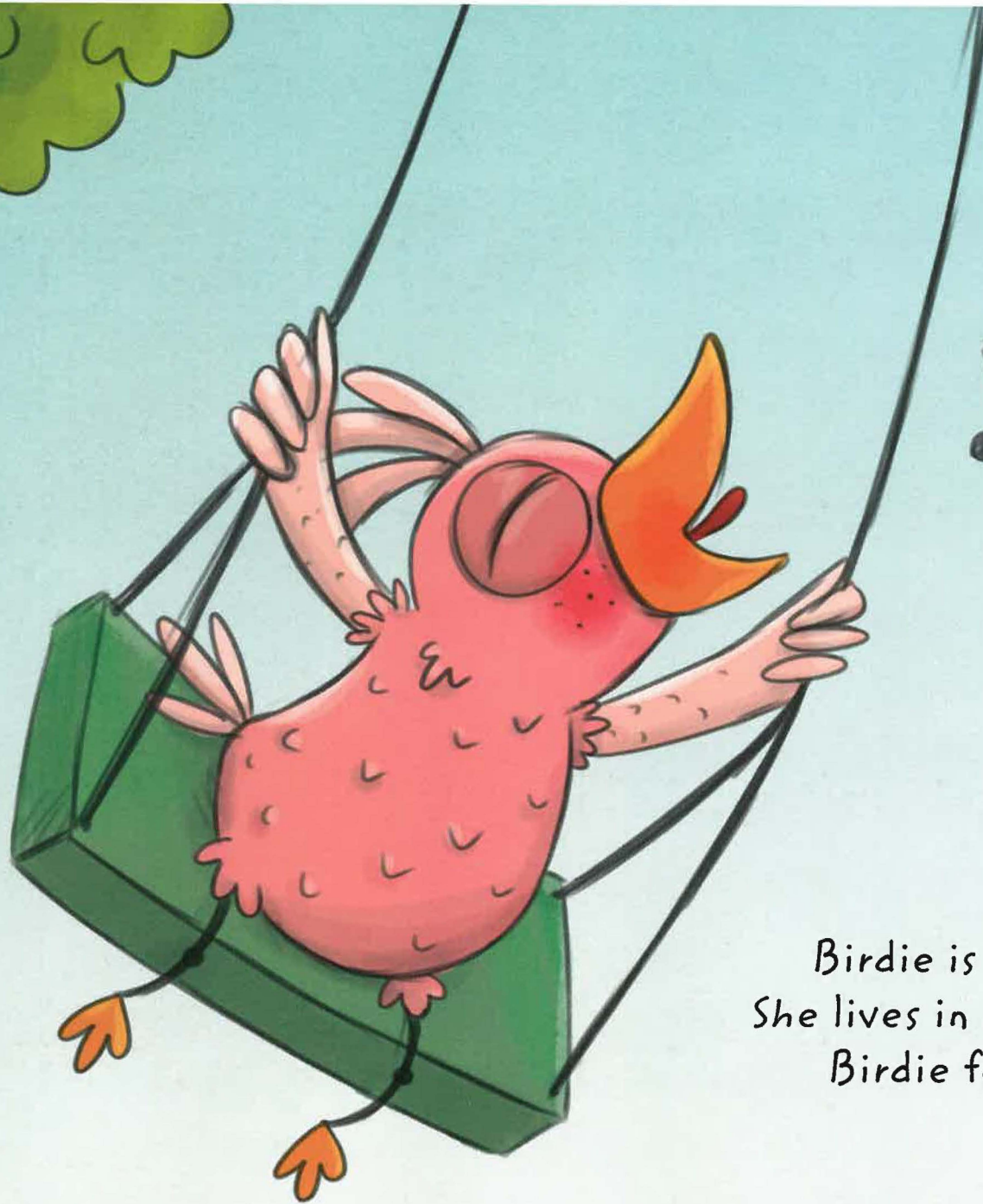
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A catalogue record for this book is available from the  
National Library of Australia

This is Birdie.





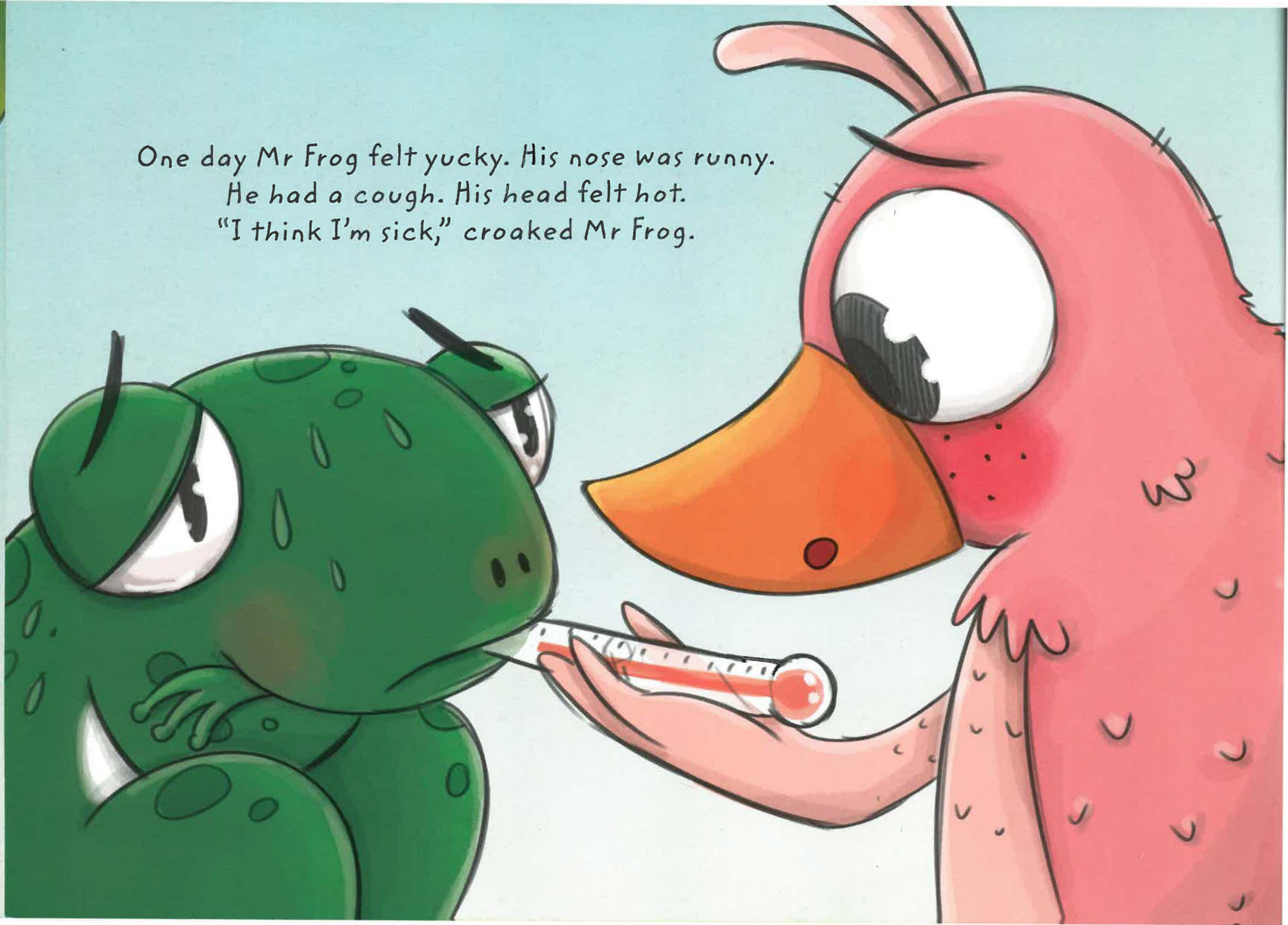
Birdie is a happy bird who likes to sing.  
She lives in a nest in a tall tree near a forest.  
Birdie feels cosy and safe in her nest.



Birdie likes to catch worms and talk with her friend Mr Frog.  
Mr Frog lives in a pond with green lily-pads.

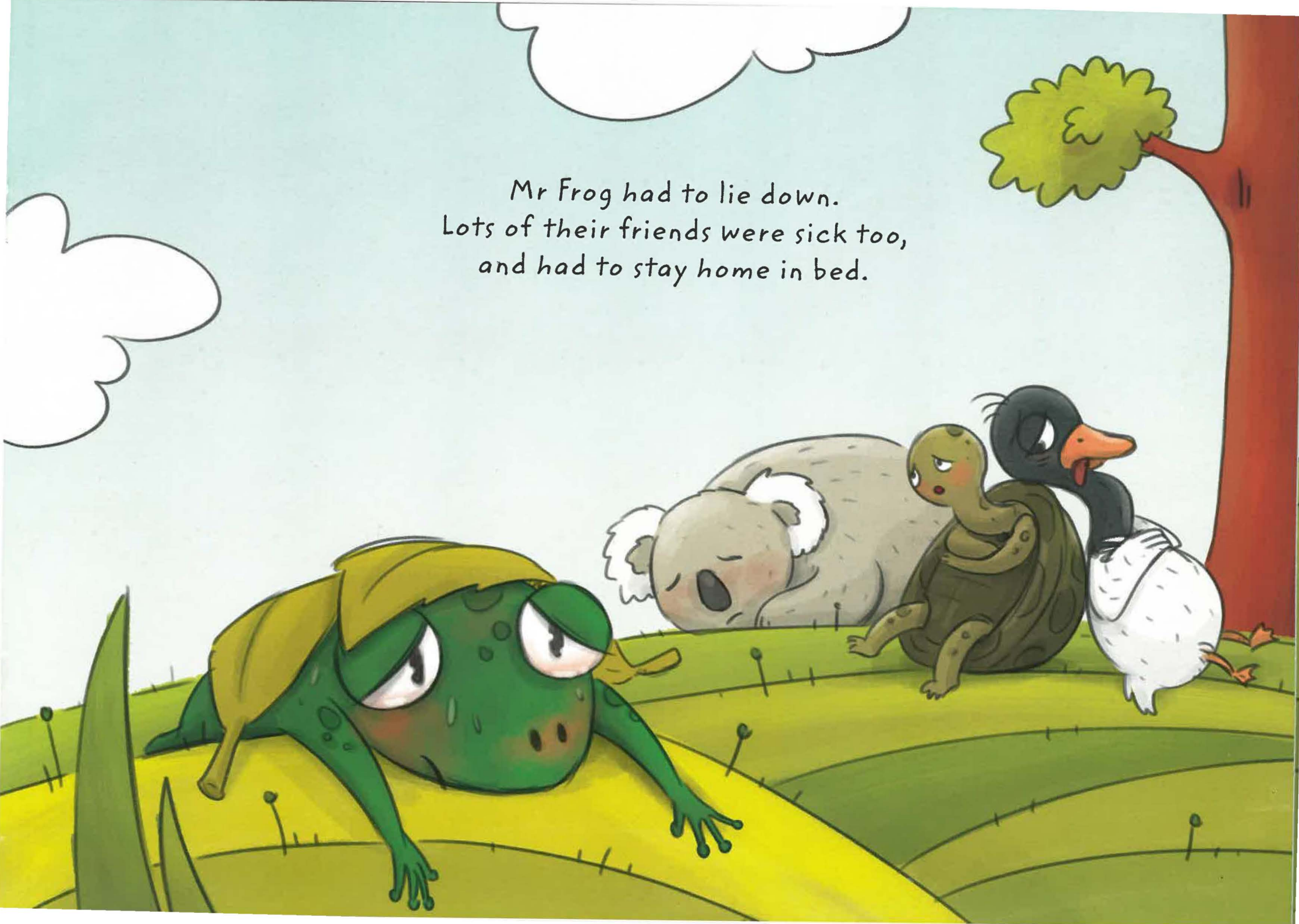


One day Mr Frog felt yucky. His nose was runny.  
He had a cough. His head felt hot.  
"I think I'm sick," croaked Mr Frog.



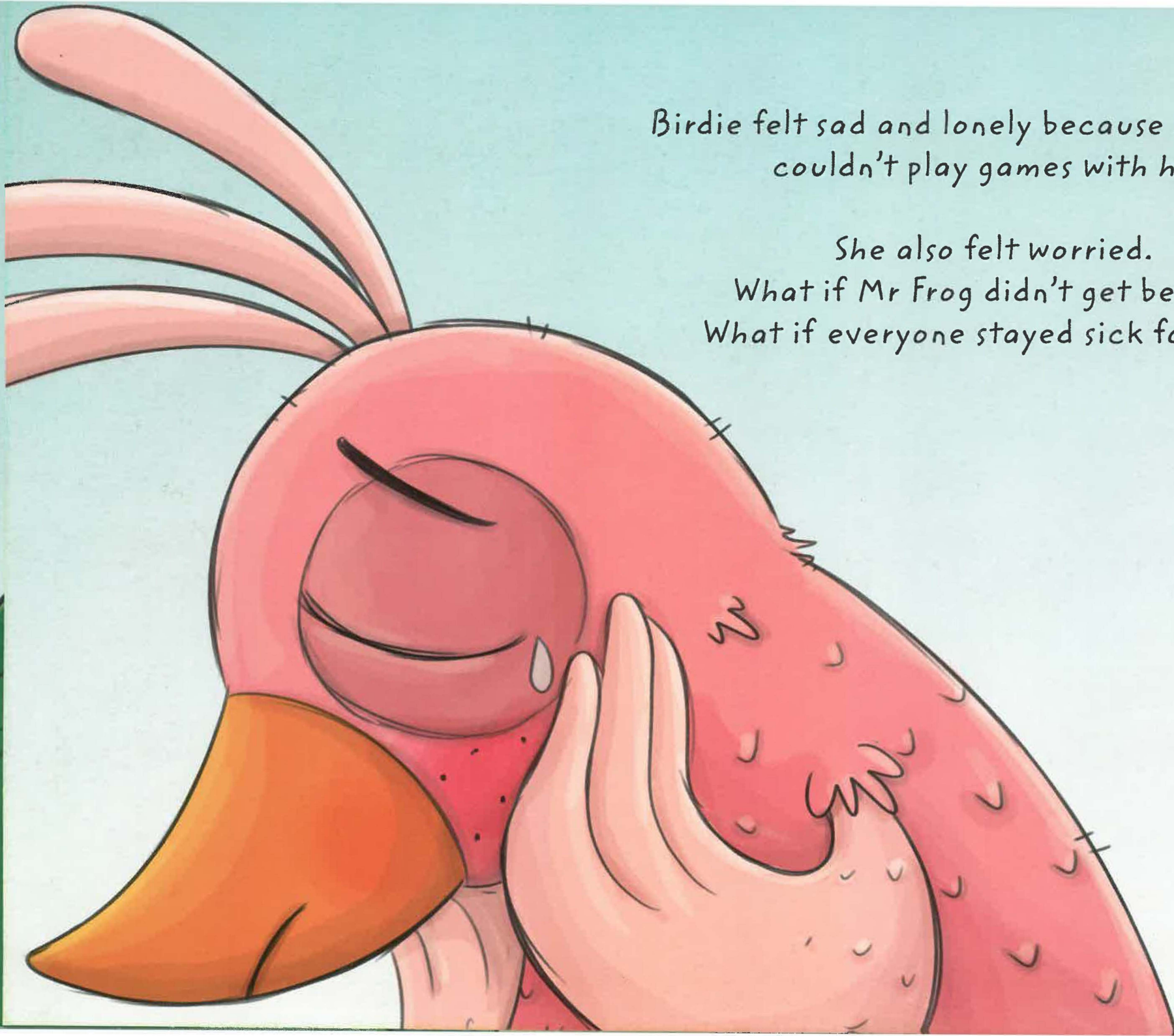


Mr Frog had to lie down.  
Lots of their friends were sick too,  
and had to stay home in bed.



Birdie felt sad and lonely because her friends  
couldn't play games with her.

She also felt worried.  
What if Mr Frog didn't get better?  
What if everyone stayed sick forever?



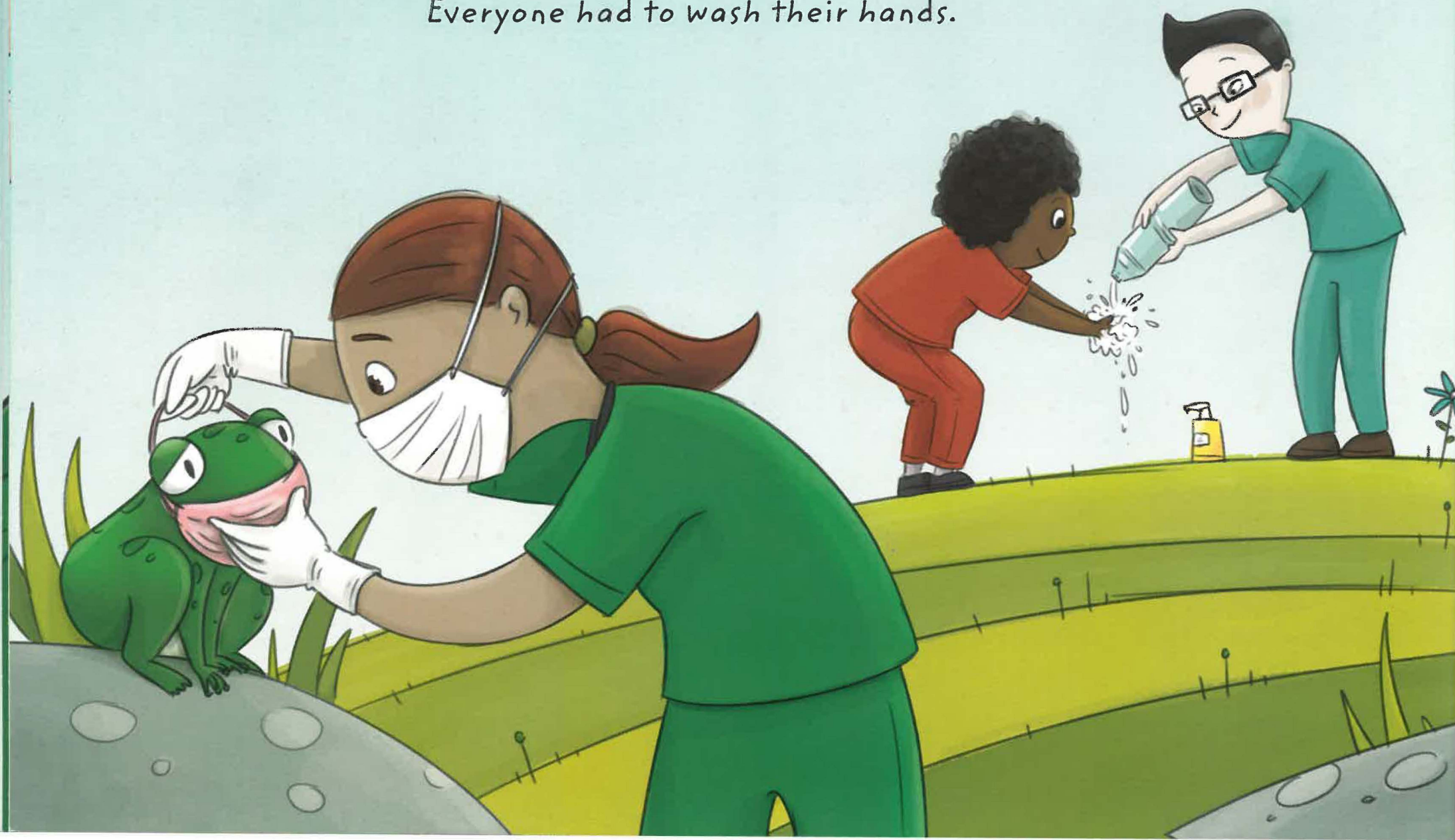


Doctor Grace came along. She said,  
"Birdie, I know you feel sad and worried.  
But we will help Mr Frog and everyone else feel better."





Doctor Grace gave Mr Frog a mask to wear.  
Everyone had to wash their hands.





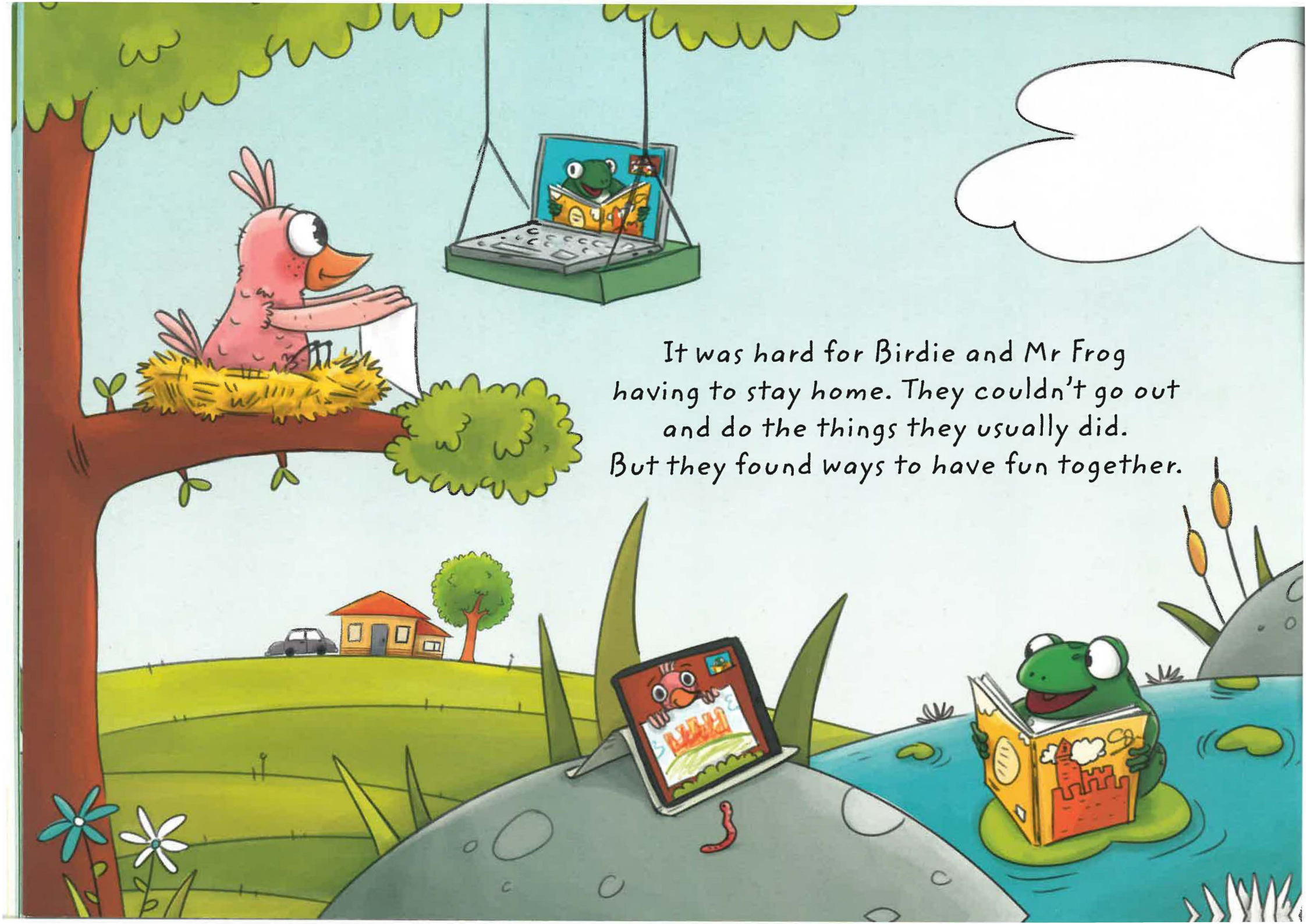
"Birdie," said Doctor Grace.  
"The thing making everyone sick  
is called a virus.

We need to check for  
the virus inside your nose,  
to see if you might get sick too."

The little stick felt strange inside  
Birdie's nose, but it wasn't there long.





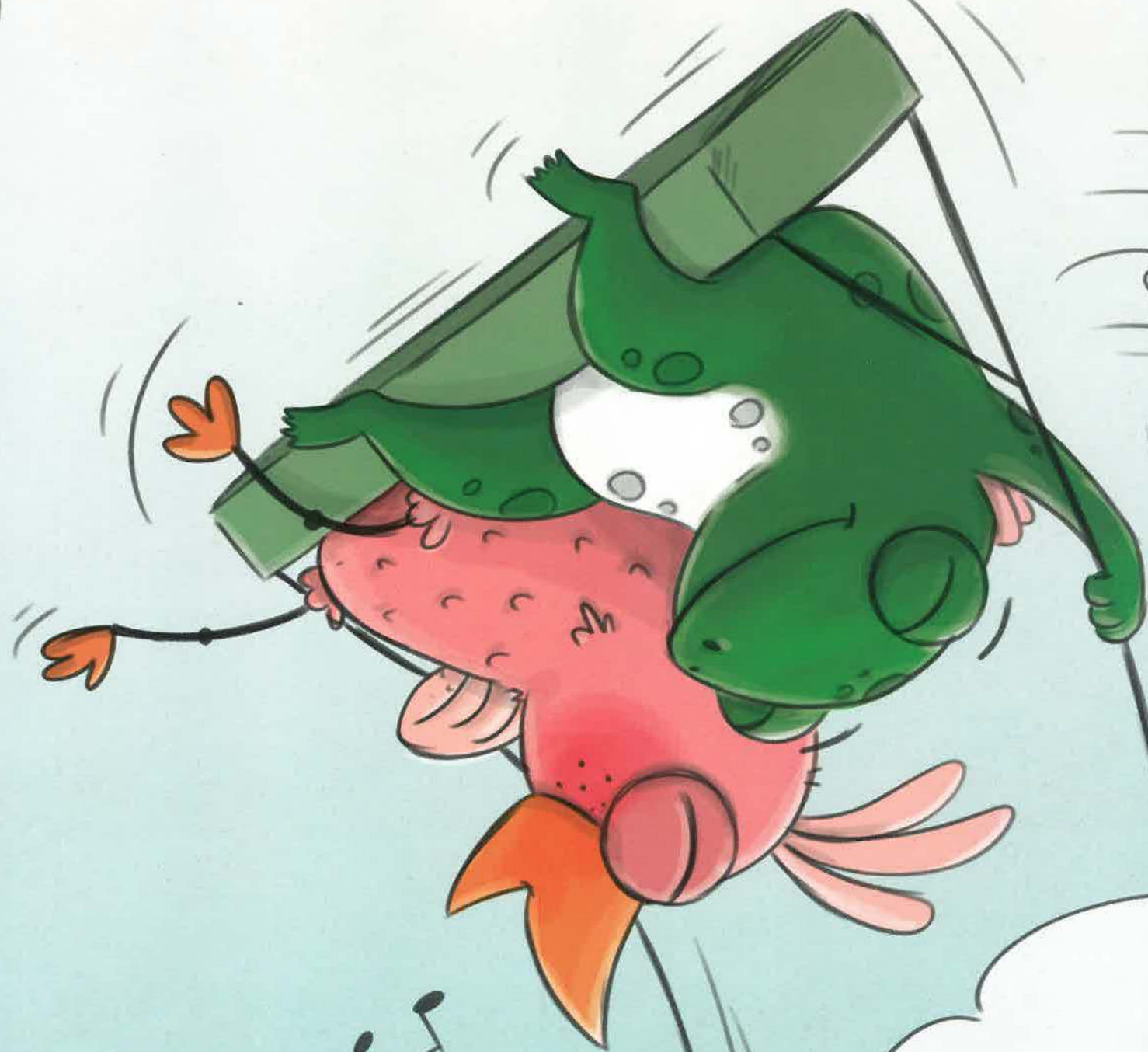


It was hard for Birdie and Mr Frog  
having to stay home. They couldn't go out  
and do the things they usually did.  
But they found ways to have fun together.

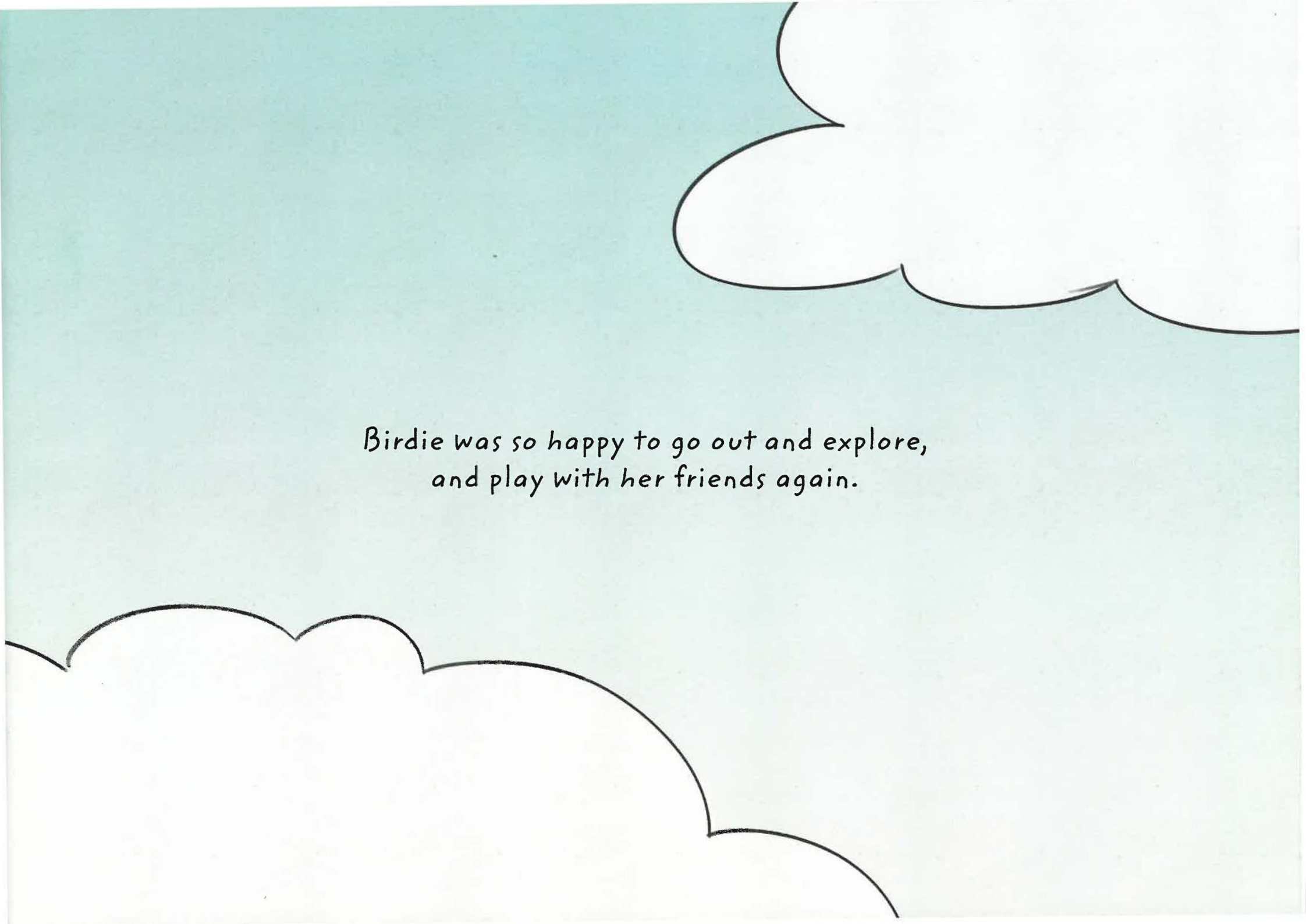


Birdie didn't get sick.  
Soon Mr Frog felt better, and so did everyone else.







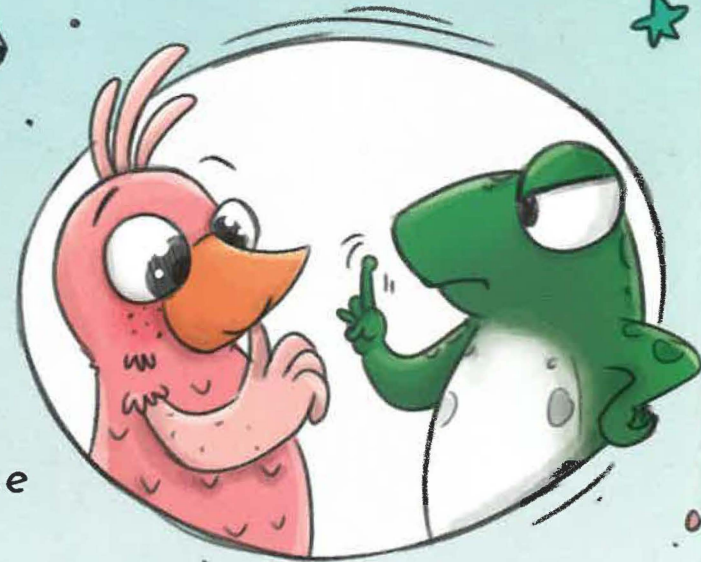


*Birdie was so happy to go out and explore,  
and play with her friends again.*

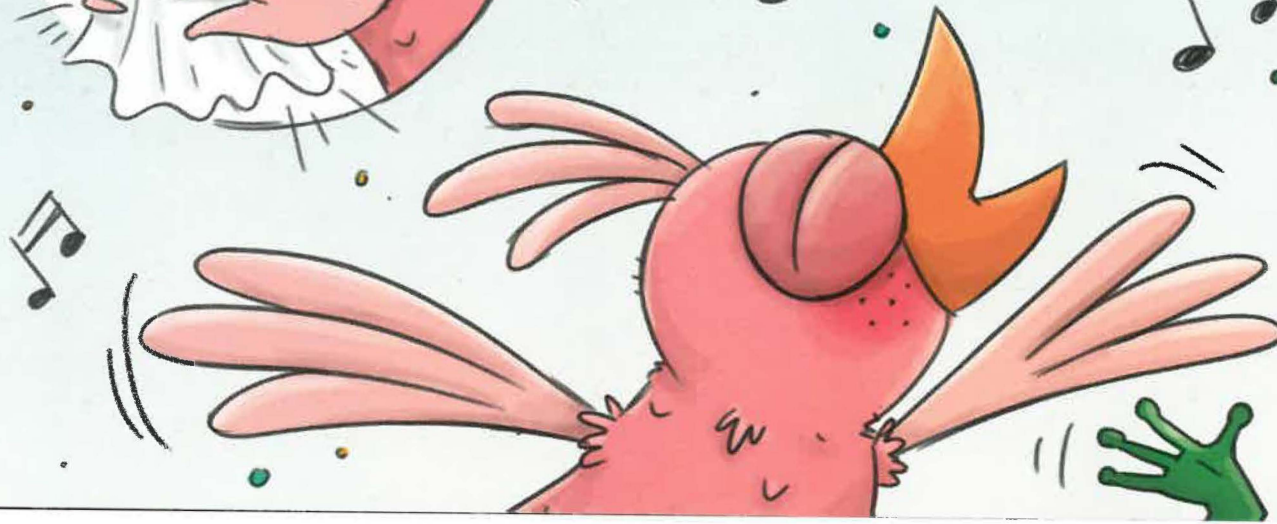


## BIRDIE SAYS

Wash your hands  
Cover coughs and sneezes  
Keep your hands away from your face  
So you won't catch diseases



Wash your hands  
Cover coughs and sneezes  
Stay at home if you are sick  
So you won't spread diseases





# BIRDIE and the VIRUS

*A virus has made Birdie's friends sick!  
Birdie feels lonely and worried.  
What if everyone stays sick forever?  
But the doctors and nurses  
are there to help.*



ISBN: 9780648817208



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# Reef funding 2014-15 to 2023-24

All figures in AUD \$m	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
<b>Australian Government Reef Programs</b>											
Reef 2050	-	-	2.090	9.432	8.671	8.729	7.876	7.984	9.700	TBD	54.482
Reef Trust	7.702	15.865	37.554	485.722	31.212	25.401	36.249	29.853	34.494	TBD	704.052
Reef Program	29.650	32.850	10.100	10.150	-	-	-	-	-	-	82.750
Other Reef funding	15.507	10.426	5.986	1.996				0.226	0.887	0.887	35.915
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>52.859</b>	<b>59.141</b>	<b>55.730</b>	<b>507.300</b>	<b>39.883</b>	<b>34.130</b>	<b>44.125</b>	<b>38.063</b>	<b>45.081</b>	<b>0.887</b>	<b>877.199</b>
<b>Australian Government Reef Science</b>											
National Environment Science Program											
(Tropical Water Quality Hub)	2.200	5.630	5.400	5.400	5.400	5.400	2.550	-	-	-	31.980
National Environment Science Program - Phase 2 (Marine and Coastal Hub)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Australian Institute of Marine Science	15.100	15.100	15.100	29.100	39.200	38.500	42.500	45.600	46.100	46.300	332.600
Australian Research Council (Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies)	6.437	6.409	6.304	6.778	6.956	8.210	5.910	3.684	2.557	0.926	54.171
CSIRO	3.922	5.627	5.621	9.709	8.886	7.149	5.736	-	-	-	46.65
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>27.659</b>	<b>32.766</b>	<b>32.425</b>	<b>50.987</b>	<b>60.442</b>	<b>59.259</b>	<b>56.696</b>	<b>49.284</b>	<b>48.657</b>	<b>47.226</b>	<b>465.401</b>
<b>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority</b>											
Joint Field Management Program (Australian Government funding)	8.372	8.372	9.961	14.859	11.965	12.740	16.576	19.428	18.990	19.059	140.322
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	18.773	19.845	22.411	24.830	41.256	42.833	56.683	36.066	33.751	33.047	329.495
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>27.145</b>	<b>28.217</b>	<b>32.372</b>	<b>39.689</b>	<b>53.221</b>	<b>55.573</b>	<b>73.259</b>	<b>55.494</b>	<b>52.741</b>	<b>52.106</b>	<b>469.817</b>
<b>Australian Maritime Safety Authority</b>											
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>23.459</b>	<b>24.185</b>	<b>21.088</b>	<b>24.888</b>	<b>27.448</b>	<b>28.620</b>	<b>28.832</b>	<b>29.191</b>	<b>29.588</b>	<b>30.006</b>	<b>267.305</b>
<b>Australian Government total</b>	<b>131.122</b>	<b>144.309</b>	<b>141.615</b>	<b>622.864</b>	<b>180.994</b>	<b>177.582</b>	<b>202.912</b>	<b>172.032</b>	<b>176.067</b>	<b>130.225</b>	<b>2,079.722</b>

Tabled by: Mr Sam O'Connor M  
 At: HFC Estimates Public Hearing  
 Time/date: 3:37PM 30/1/2021  
 Signature: Lynnda Joffe

Australian Government  
 Budget Paper

All figures in AUD \$m	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	Total
<b>Queensland Government Reef programs</b>											
Queensland Government Reef Water Quality Program	35.000	33.425	47.145	43.374	68.916	58.214	63.456	36.776	50.000	50.000	486.306
Joint Field Management Program (Queensland Government funding)	8.372	8.372	8.766	8.779	13.279	12.709	16.468	19.227	19.227	19.227	134.426
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>43.372</b>	<b>41.797</b>	<b>55.911</b>	<b>52.153</b>	<b>82.195</b>	<b>70.923</b>	<b>79.924</b>	<b>56.003</b>	<b>19.227</b>	<b>19.227</b>	<b>620.732</b>
<b>Queensland Sustainable Fisheries programs</b>											
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7.001</b>	<b>2.674</b>	<b>6.439</b>	<b>7.697</b>	<b>9.541</b>	<b>8.500</b>	<b>14.311</b>	<b>13.175</b>	<b>7.500</b>	<b>76.838</b>
<b>Maritime Safety Queensland</b>											
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>28.000</b>	<b>28.000</b>	<b>28.000</b>	<b>28.000</b>	<b>28.000</b>	<b>28.000</b>	<b>23.000</b>	<b>28.000</b>	<b>28.000</b>	<b>28.000</b>	<b>275.000</b>
<b>Queensland total</b>	<b>71.372</b>	<b>76.798</b>	<b>86.585</b>	<b>86.592</b>	<b>117.892</b>	<b>108.464</b>	<b>111.424</b>	<b>84.003</b>	<b>47.227</b>	<b>47.227</b>	<b>972.570</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>202.494</b>	<b>221.107</b>	<b>228.200</b>	<b>709.456</b>	<b>298.886</b>	<b>286.046</b>	<b>314.336</b>	<b>256.035</b>	<b>223.294</b>	<b>177.452</b>	<b>3,052.292</b>
<b>Cumulative total</b>	<b>202.494</b>	<b>423.601</b>	<b>651.801</b>	<b>1,361.257</b>	<b>1,660.143</b>	<b>1,946.189</b>	<b>2,260.525</b>	<b>2,516.560</b>	<b>2,739.854</b>	<b>3,052.292</b>	

#### KEY

-	Shows years prior to the commitment of funds and after allocated funding has finished.
TBD	To be determined – funding allocations to be considered in future budgets and planning processes



## Reef funding notes

Reef programs	Description
<b>Reef 2050</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2023–24 funding will be determined as part of future Australian Government budget processes.</li> </ul>
<b>Reef Trust</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$2.1 million provided by Queensland Government in 2016–17 for the Reef Trust Phase IV Enhanced Efficiency Fertiliser Project, with expenditure to occur from 2016–17 to 2019–20, is reported under Queensland Government investment (and not in Reef Trust).</li> <li>2017–18, funding includes \$443.3 million for the Reef Trust Partnership. Funding will be expended over 6 years until 30 June 2024.</li> <li>2023–24 funding will be determined as part of future Australian Government budget processes.</li> </ul>
<b>Reef Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reef Program ended in 2017–18. Future Reef funding was allocated to the Reef Trust.</li> </ul>
<b>Other Reef funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes a range of Reef projects undertaken between 2014–15 and 2017–18: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural Heritage Trust Reef projects</li> <li>Systems Repair and Urban Water Quality Grants (Biodiversity Fund)</li> <li>\$9.375 million for e-Reefs coastal information system (total project value is \$12.5 million and commenced in 2013–14).</li> <li>Includes \$2M (2021–22 to 2023–24) for onground works and administration of the Raine Island Recovery Project announced as part of the \$100 million Oceans Leadership Package in 2021</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>National Environmental Science Program (NESP) (Tropical Water Quality Hub)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NESP is a long-term commitment by the Australian Government for environment and climate research. The first phase invested \$145 million (2014–2015 to 2020–2021) into 6 research hubs, including \$31.98 million to the Tropical Water Quality Hub.</li> <li>The second phase of NESP will invest \$149 million (2020–21 to 2026–27) into 4 new research hubs, including a new Marine and Coastal Hub. The program also has cross-cutting research missions, including one to support management of Australia's protected places and heritage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$18.967 million is allocated to the Marine and Coastal Hub (which replaces the Tropical Water Quality Hub) for 2021–22 to 2023–24 to fund research, some of which will be applicable to the Great Barrier Reef. Allocations for Great Barrier Reef-related research will be defined as research planning progresses.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Australian Institute of Marine Science</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Australian Institute of Marine Science invests a considerable proportion of its scientific effort in research that supports the health and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef. This covers a wide range of activities which can be summarised as detailed reef monitoring; field work and experimentation; research and development; and partnerships and international engagement.</li> </ul>
<b>Australian Research Council (ARC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding from the ARC is awarded through a competitive peer review selection exercise across all disciplines, including funding for the ARC Centre of Excellence for Integrated Coral Reef Studies.</li> </ul>

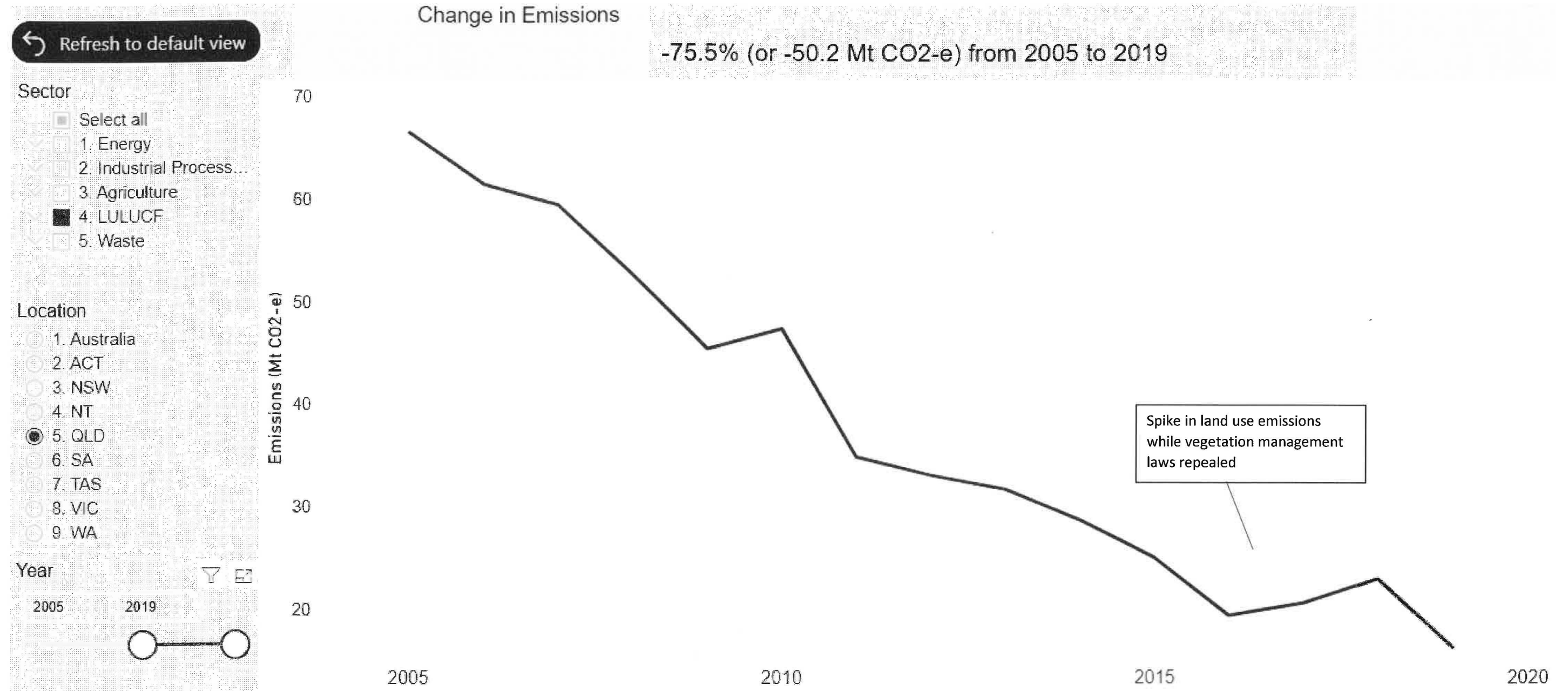
Reef programs	Description
<b>Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes significant investments in understanding water quality and how agricultural practices affect sediment and nutrient loss, as well as developing practical solutions for land managers to reduce these losses.</li> <li>CSIRO has a wide-ranging portfolio of Reef research activities that relate to social, terrestrial and marine systems. CSIRO co-invests in externally funded work, as well as directly funding work through its Future Science Platforms. Figures for 2020–21 are an underestimate, as CSIRO anticipates significant new work (e.g. Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program) entraining additional co-investment from CSIRO.</li> </ul>
<b>Australian Maritime Safety Authority</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Australian Maritime Safety Authority, together with the Marine Park Authority and Maritime Safety Queensland, administer a suite of measures that regulate all ship activities within the region.</li> </ul>
<b>Reef Joint Field Management Program (Australian Government funding)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Queensland Government co-fund the Reef Joint Field Management Program. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority contributed more than \$8 million per year to the program until additional funding was announced in 2018 which will see the annual contribution grow to more than \$19 million by 2021–22.</li> </ul>
<b>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding for this item includes departmental appropriation, the Environmental Management Charge (EMC) and injections for the renewal of Reef HQ Aquarium. The EMC is a charge associated with most commercial activities, including tourism operations, non-tourist charter operations and facilities, that operate under a permit issued by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.</li> <li>Funding for this item does not include Reef HQ sales or permits.</li> </ul>
<b>Queensland Government Reef Water Quality Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Queensland Government has allocated an additional \$270.1 million for the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program over five years 2021–22 to 2025–26. This amount has been pro-rated at \$50 million per year in both 2022–23 and 2023–24, noting actual annual allocations may be different.</li> <li>\$2.1 million provided by the Queensland Government in 2016–17 for the Reef Trust Phase IV Enhanced Efficiency Fertiliser Project, with expenditure to occur from 2016–17 to 2019–20, is reported under Queensland Government investment (and not captured in the Reef Trust).</li> <li>Since 2015, the Queensland Government has invested approximately \$570 million into initiatives targeted solely at the protection of the Reef. In addition, the Queensland Government delivers a range of other programs that apply to the whole State of Queensland, with the Reef and its catchment making up a significant proportion of the state. The Queensland Reef Water Quality Program is invested through 3 Queensland Government agencies – the Department of Environment and Science, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.</li> </ul>
<b>Reef Joint Field Management Program (Queensland Government funding)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Queensland Government and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority co-fund the Reef Joint Field Management Program.</li> <li>The Queensland Government contributed more than \$8 million per year to the program until additional funding was announced in 2018 that will see the Queensland Government's annual contribution grow to more than \$19 million by 2021–22.</li> </ul>

Reef programs	Description
<b>Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Programs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Queensland Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries developed and commenced implementation of the Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017–2027.</li> </ul>
<b>Maritime Safety Queensland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maritime Safety Queensland is responsible for improving maritime safety in Queensland waters, minimising vessel-sourced waste, responding to marine pollution incidents and providing essential maritime services such as aids to navigation and vessel traffic services.</li> <li>Maritime Safety Queensland operates the Reef and Torres Strait vessel traffic service, which aims to improve navigational safety, reduce the risk of maritime incidents and respond quickly to incidents that do occur within those regions.</li> <li>The Reef and Torres Strait vessel traffic service is supported by a User Guide, which was published in 2017.</li> </ul>

Additional Australian Government funding for the Reef is provided through the Bureau of Meteorology, Australia's national weather, marine, climate and water information agency. The Bureau of Meteorology's operational services include weather and ocean forecasts; and climate outlooks, including ocean temperature outlooks for the Reef lagoon, flood and streamflow forecasts and tropical cyclone warnings. It also provides critical support to communities and agencies in the Great Barrier Reef Region. The Bureau of Meteorology is part of the eReefs project.

## Emissions from land use

Tabled by: Hon Scamlon, MP  
 At: HEC Estimates Public Hearing  
 Time/date: 2:44 PM 30/7/2021  
 Signature: Lynda Ruddy





Tabled by: Hon Scanlon MP  
At: HEC Estimates Public Hearing  
Time/date: 2:44 PM 30/7/2021  
Signature: Lynsda Kelly

## Number of new large scale renewable projects coming online

