

2023-2024 Budget Estimates Volume of Additional Information

State Development and Regional Industries Committee
August 2023

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Clarifying Statement

List of Members granted leave who attended the hearing and asked questions

1.	Jarrold Bleijie MP, Member for Kawana
2.	Ann Leahy MP, Member for Warrego
3.	Tony Perrett MP, Member for Gympie
4.	Dale Last MP, Member for Burdekin
5.	Deb Frecklington MP, Member for Nanango
6.	Michael Berkman MP, Member for Maiwar
7.	Dr Amy MacMahon MP, Member for South Brisbane
8.	Stephen Andrew MP, Member for Mirani

**Questions on notice and responses – *Deputy Premier,
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local
Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the
Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure***

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 1

Asked on 11 July 2023

The State Development and Regional Industries Committee asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (HON S MILES) –

QUESTION:

Can the Deputy Premier advise when in 2023/24 the Great Keppel Island Master Plan is now due for public release?

ANSWER:

The Woppa (Great Keppel Island) Draft Master Plan was released for public consultation on Monday 10 July 2023 and closes on Monday 21 August 2023.

The Media Statement is available at: <https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/98173>

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 2

Asked on 11 July 2023

The State Development and Regional Industries Committee asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (HON S MILES) –

QUESTION:

Will the Deputy Premier list the number of departmental employees as of March 2023 broken down by Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations code and for each: (a) the occupation code description, and (b) whether it is a frontline, frontline support or corporate service role?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Public Sector Workforce Profile report was published on 13 June 2023. This provides a summary of the Queensland public sector workforce as at 31 March 2023 with a breakdown of frontline, frontline support, and corporate service roles. The occupation code description is also covered within this report.

The report can be viewed here – <https://www.forgov.qld.gov.au/human-resources/workforce-planning/workforce-statistics-and-tools/workforce-statistics>.

As at March 2023, the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning comprised 20.2 per cent corporate service FTEs and 79.8 per cent frontline and frontline support FTEs.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 3

Asked on 11 July 2023

The State Development and Regional Industries Committee asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (HON S MILES) –

QUESTION:

Regarding the 2021-24 South East Queensland Community Stimulus Program, can the Deputy Premier provide: (a) breakdown of funding by financial year, and (b) the new infrastructure delivered by the program together with its cost and completion date (broken down by Local Government Area).

ANSWER:

The 2021-24 South East Queensland Community Stimulus Program (the Program) funding period is from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2024. The Program is providing \$100 million to support the 12 South East Queensland (SEQ) councils.

Funding is paid to councils based on the achievement of project delivery milestones.

Councils were paid:

- \$50.162 million in 2021-22
- \$16.347 million in 2022-23.

The new infrastructure and community assets being delivered by each eligible council under the Program, project funding amount (grant subsidy) and completion dates, as at 1 July 2023, is as follows:

Council	Council Project Name	Program Funding	Project Completion Date
Brisbane City Council	Sports Field Lighting	\$500,000.00	23/12/2022
	Albert Street Amenity Block Greening Project	\$1,350,000.00	04/08/2022
	Roof replacement – SES Morningside	\$1,000,000.00	10/03/2023
	Animal Rehoming	\$1,000,000.00	06/02/2023
	Murarrie Recreation Reserve - Brisbane International Cycle Park	\$2,500,000.00	In progress
	Everton Park Bowls Club Car Park	\$650,000.00	In progress
Total Funding		\$7,000,000.00	

Council	Council Project Name	Program Funding	Project Completion Date
Gold Coast City Council	Gold Coast Disaster and Emergency Management Centre	\$9,810,000.00	In progress
	Paradise Point Parklands Public Amenities and Changing Places Facility	\$689,000.00	25/11/2022
	Construction of a Changing Places Facility at Tallebudgera Creek Park	\$800,000.00	In progress
	Lower Beechmont Community Facility	\$1,547,000.00	In progress
Total Funding		\$12,846,000.00	

Ipswich City Council	Cameron Park Playground and Amenities Upgrade	\$2,000,000.00	In progress
	Richardson Park Playground and Amenities Upgrade	\$1,500,000.00	In progress
	Riverview recycling and refuse centre upgrade and associated works (Stage 1)	\$3,170,000.00	In progress
Total Funding		\$6,670,000.00	

Lockyer Valley Regional Council	Flood Cameras	\$144,800.00	12/12/2022
	Twidale Road Upgrade	\$150,000.00	26/08/2022
	Bore Infrastructure Improvements	\$102,600.00	17/07/2022
	Cahill Park Machinery Shed Renewal	\$127,000.00	02/08/2022
	Cemetery Upgrades - Laidley / Gatton	\$72,600.00	01/12/2022
	Laidley Saleyards Program	\$114,000.00	In progress
	Stormwater Renewal Program	\$208,000.00	In progress
	Floodway Renewal Program	\$383,000.00	In progress
	Kerb and Channel Renewal Program	\$300,000.00	In progress
	Gatton Landfill Cell 5 Construction	\$1,720,000.00	In progress
	Culvert Renewal Program	\$380,000.00	In progress
	Footpath Missing Link and Renewal Program	\$328,000.00	In progress
	Lockyer Valley Sport and Aquatic Centres Revitalisation	\$406,000.00	30/11/2022
Total Funding		\$4,436,000.00	

Logan City Council	Teviot Road and Middle Road Intersection upgrade	\$1,000,000.00	13/01/2023
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Council	Council Project Name	Program Funding	Project Completion Date
	South West Depot	\$3,500,000.00	In progress
	Logan Central Youth Centre	\$2,020,000.00	In progress
	Centre Activation Through Tactical Intervention	\$500,000.00	In progress
	Storey Road - Logan Village Local Road Kerb and Stormwater Drainage upgrade	\$1,000,000.00	In progress
	Springwood Park Masterplan - Stage 1	\$500,000.00	In progress
	Logan Riverine Discovery Centre	\$2,750,000.00	In progress
	Chambers Flat Road and School Road Intersection	\$48,000.00	In progress
	Croydon Road Streetscape Upgrades	\$1,500,000.00	In progress
Total Funding		\$12,818,000.00	

Moreton Bay Regional Council	Beachmere - Mazlin Park - Park Upgrade	\$850,000.00	24/03/2023
	Brendale - Nolan Park - BMX Precinct Construction	\$450,000.00	17/12/2022
	Kallangur - Freshwater Creek - Park Corridor Upgrade	\$330,000.00	19/12/2022
	Strathpine - Rob Akers Reserve - Building Renewal Stage 2 Clubhouse	\$650,000.00	15/03/2023
	Morayfield - Lindsay Road Sports Complex - Lighting Upgrade	\$290,000.00	17/10/2022
	Rothwell - Scott Street - Park and Walk Facility	\$186,200.00	01/11/2022
	Deception Bay - Deception Bay Scenic Reserve - Pathway Lighting	\$294,000.00	In progress
	Warner - Frank Nichols Park - Park Upgrade 2	\$280,000.00	In progress
	Dayboro - Dayboro War Memorial Grounds - Soccer Field Lighting	\$320,000.00	In progress
	Clontarf - KR Benson Park - Redcliffe Leagues Netball Association Court Renewal	\$900,000.00	In progress
	North Lakes - Kinsellas Sports Complex - Tiered seating and shade	\$450,000.00	In progress
	Burpengary - Jets Rugby League - Lighting and CCTV	\$500,000.00	In progress
	Morayfield - Morayfield Road - Active Transport Upgrades	\$500,000.00	In progress
	Bongaree - Bribie Island Sports Complex - Building Renewal	\$554,300.00	In progress
	Ferny Hills - Linkwood Drive to Hutton Road - Emergency Access	\$300,000.00	In progress

Council	Council Project Name	Program Funding	Project Completion Date
	Murrumba Downs - Ogg Road - Pedestrian Crossing and Road Access Improvements	\$212,000.00	In progress
	Morayfield - Madeline Drive - Missing Link Footpath (1.80km)	\$550,000.00	In progress
	Dayboro - Hay Road - Pathway Construction	\$275,000.00	In progress
	Everton Hills - Cabbage Tree Creek - Active Transport Improvements	\$800,000.00	In progress
	Murrumba Downs - Dohles Rocks Road - Fauna Infrastructure Renewal	\$160,000.00	In progress
	Caboolture - Bluebell Street Park - Amenities Construction	\$320,000.00	In progress
	North Lakes - Bounty Boulevard State School - Park and Walk Facility	\$128,500.00	In progress
	Moreton Bay Housing and Homelessness Services Hub	\$3,000,000.00	In progress
	Bellara Foreshore Improvement Project	\$1,500,000.00	In progress
Total Funding		\$13,800,000.00	

Noosa Shire Council	Noosa Heads Main Beach Shower and Rock Wall Seating Improvements	\$90,000.00	09/11/2022
	Noosaville Alec Loveday Park Pedestrian Bridge Renewal Works	\$35,000.00	01/04/2023
	Shire Switchboard and Meter box upgrade	\$30,000.00	31/03/2022
	Conservation Projects on Council Land/Reserves-1	\$200,000.00	In progress
	Noosaville Gympie Terrace Park Furniture Renewal	\$50,000.00	In progress
	Peregian Beach Skate Park Design and Construct	\$175,000.00	In progress
	Shire BBQ Renewal Program	\$140,000.00	In progress
	Sunshine Beach - Beach Access 31 Renewal	\$160,000.00	In progress
	Community Facility Maintenance and Renewal	\$709,000.00	In progress
	Council Building Upgrades	\$183,000.00	In progress
	Gympie Terrace Foreshore Shelter Renewal Program	\$160,000.00	In progress
	Noosa Heads Maze Carpark Works Including Lighting	\$155,000.00	In progress
	Noosaville Noosaville Foreshore Park Stormwater Renewals	\$300,000.00	In progress
	Shire Public Amenities Renewal Program	\$500,000.00	In progress

Council	Council Project Name	Program Funding	Project Completion Date
	Shire Kerb and Channel Renewal Program	\$400,000.00	In progress
	Noosa Heads Precinct West End Sofitel Boardwalk Design and Construction	\$105,000.00	In progress
	Walking and Cycling Strategy Implementation	\$538,000.00	In progress
	Tewantin Memorial Park Pathway Upgrade	\$150,000.00	In progress
Total Funding		\$4,080,000.00	

Redland City Council	Redlands Coast Fibre Expansion Stage 2A: Indigiscapes to Capalaba Library (via Capalaba WWTP)	\$590,000.00	01/07/2022
	Redlands Coast Sport Precinct - Bike Activity Sub-Precinct	\$2,500,000.00	In progress
	Redlands Coast Sport Precinct - Recreation Sub-Precinct	\$2,000,000.00	In progress
	Minjerribah Panorama Coastal Walk Stage 2	\$2,500,000.00	In progress
Total Funding		\$7,590,000.00	

Scenic Rim Regional Council	Beaudesert Enterprise Precinct pavement rehabilitation	\$700,000.00	09/11/2022
	Carpark and access driveways upgrades at two parks	\$1,040,000.00	In progress
	Community and Council Facilities upgrades	\$810,000.00	In progress
	Community and Cultural Centres - Air Conditioning Upgrade	\$840,000.00	In progress
	Bromelton Transfer Station recycling bay construction	\$600,000.00	In progress
Total Funding		\$3,990,000.00	

Somerset Regional Council	Upgrade Esk Show Grounds	\$32,313.00	02/09/2021
	Lowood Recycled Water Pipeline	\$1,400,000.00	In progress
	Waste Infrastructure Upgrades	\$2,457,687.00	In progress
	Lowood pool - safe and fun for everyone project	\$1,996,731.00	In progress
	Construct Esk-Crows Nest Strategic Regional Connector - Toowoomba boundary section	\$2,055,211.00	In progress
	Lowood-Minden Road - Minden Village home safer and sooner project	\$687,950.00	In progress

Council	Council Project Name	Program Funding	Project Completion Date
Total Funding		\$8,629,892.00	

Sunshine Coast Regional Council	Parkyn Parade Pedestrian Facilities	\$145,000.00	02/11/2022
	Buderim Village Park - Playground	\$700,000.00	30/11/2022
	Albany Lakes Park - Stage 2	\$600,000.00	30/12/2022
	Palmwoods Warriors Football Club	\$450,000.00	31/03/2022
	Turner Park Upgrades and Activation	\$200,000.00	01/11/2022
	Mooloolaba Playground Shade	\$100,000.00	30/06/2022
	Sunshine Coast Stadium - car park	\$500,000.00	01/03/2023
	North Shore Multi-Sports Complex	\$700,000.00	In progress
	Outrigger Park Amenities	\$215,000.00	In progress
	Caloundra Indoor Stadium - roof upgrade	\$700,000.00	In progress
	Coolum Sports Complex - intersection upgrade	\$700,000.00	In progress
	Woombye Streetscape	\$500,000.00	In progress
	Eumundi Streetscape	\$500,000.00	In progress
	Landsborough Streetscape - Stage 2	\$500,000.00	In progress
	Ocean St Streetscape Upgrades	\$500,000.00	In progress
	First Avenue Maroochydore - Major Streetscape Upgrade	\$2,020,108.00	In progress
Total Funding		\$9,030,108.00	

Toowoomba Regional Council	Newman Road Culvert Replacement	\$1,110,000.00	In progress
	Gowrie Creek Trunk Sewer Upgrade	\$2,000,000.00	In progress
	Clifton Wastewater Treatment Plant	\$2,000,000.00	In progress
	Russell Street East Streetscape Refresh (Stage 2)	\$2,000,000.00	25/11/2022
	Yarraman Waste Management Facility	\$2,000,000.00	31/10/2022
Total Funding		\$9,110,000.00	

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 4

Asked on 11 July 2023

The State Development and Regional Industries Committee asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (HON S MILES) –

QUESTION:

In regards to the evaluation of the Underutilised Urban Footprint areas within the SEQ Regional Plan which was to be undertaken in 2022/23, can the Deputy Premier advise: (a) the area of land evaluated, (b) the amount of land identified as a short-term opportunity for unlocking land supply and housing, and (c) the number of residential lots expected to be released for sale in 2023/24 in the areas identified in b).

ANSWER:

A total of 27,000 hectares of Underutilised Urban Footprint (UUF) land has been investigated. As a result of this work, it has been identified that 7,000 hectares of land (27 per cent) is utilised (being actively developed), and 20,000 hectares (73 per cent) could be developed with appropriate intervention. The learnings from UUF investigations will be applied in the South East Queensland Regional Plan review.

The Queensland Government and local governments play a role in enhancing land and housing supply across the South East Queensland region in both the short and long term. The Queensland Government cannot provide a specific figure for the number of residential lots expected to be released for sale in 2023/24. This is due to the fact that decisions regarding the quantity of lots to be released for sale are primarily within the purview of the development industry. Developers often make decisions based on market conditions, demand, and their own business strategies. As such, the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning is not directly involved in determining these figures.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 5

Asked on 11 July 2023

The State Development and Regional Industries Committee asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (HON S MILES) –

QUESTION:

In regards to the Deputy Premier's previous commitment to publicly release the South East Queensland City Deal Implementation Plan by the end of 2022, can the Deputy Premier advise why it hasn't been released and the new expected release date?

ANSWER:

On 15 July 2023, the Albanese and Palaszczuk governments along with the Council of Mayors South East Queensland (SEQ) released the South East Queensland (SEQ) City Deal Implementation Plan.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 6

Asked on 11 July 2023

The State Development and Regional Industries Committee asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (HON S MILES) –

QUESTION:

Regarding business cases for new development areas, could the Deputy Premier advise: (a) if the business case for Beerwah East has been completed, and (b) if a business case for the Halls Creek development is to be completed, and if so, the planned completion date?

ANSWER:

Beerwah East was identified as a major development area in the South East Queensland Regional Plan 2017 (*ShapingSEQ*).

The Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government, and Planning completed an initial assessment of Beerwah East in 2022 which lay the foundation for the Business Case. This initial assessment highlighted key areas like land tenure, Native Title, and land use planning that need attention for future urban development.

Halls Creek is currently undergoing an assessment under the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* in regards to its environmental values and assets, including the Ramsar-listed Pumicestone Passage. The department will consider the outcomes of this process and the need for supply in the wider sub-region, including Beerwah East, before proceeding with further work.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 7

Asked on 11 July 2023

The State Development and Regional Industries Committee asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (HON S MILES) –

QUESTION:

Since the 2018/19 financial year, can the Deputy Premier report on a financial year basis the amount of funds spent on the Review of the Grants to Local Government: Current and Future State Assessments, the costs paid to consultants and the costs associated with developing grant reporting portals, all reported separately?

ANSWER:

Since 2018/19 there was no cost to engage external resources to develop the *Review of the Grants to Local Government: Current and Future State Assessments* report.

The eGrant System Replacement Project:

- Financial Year 2018/19: \$260,372
- Financial Year 2019/20: \$958,580
- Financial Year: 2020/21: \$547,988

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 8

Asked on 11 July 2023

The State Development and Regional Industries Committee asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (HON S MILES) –

QUESTION:

With reference to the Works for Queensland and COVID Works for Queensland programs and the SEQ Community Stimulus Package for each financial year 2016/17 to 2026/27, can the Deputy Premier provide, for each individual program (reported separately) the: (a) total level of funds allocated for each of the financial years (b) amount of any funding carried over each year; (c) amount of funding already expended in each program; and (d) amount of funding remaining post 23/24 in each program?

ANSWER:

For question parts (a), (b) and (c):

Works for Queensland			
Financial Year	Funding Allocation \$'000	Deferral ¹ / (Bring Forward ²) \$'000	Funding Expended \$'000
2016-17	120,000	660	119,340
2017-18	180,000	3,100	176,900
2018-19	147,811	(23,872)	171,683
2019-20	50,000	374	49,626
2020-21	33,995	(12,247)	46,242
2021-22	148,000	13,868	134,132
2022-23	88,210	39,405	48,805
2023-24	38,186	-	-
2024-25	114,214	-	-
2025-26	70,000	-	-
2026-27	30,000	-	-
			746,728

¹ Deferral is the carry over of unspent funding from the current financial year into future years.

² Bring forward is where funding from a future year is brought into the current financial year.

2020-21 COVID Works for Queensland			
Financial Year	Funding Allocation \$'000	Deferral / (Bring Forward) \$'000	Funding Expended \$'000
2020-21	180,000	41,348	138,652
2021-22	80,000	27,350	52,650
2022-23	9,888	3,457	6,431
2023-24	1,652	615	-
			197,733

2021-24 South East Queensland Community Stimulus Program (SEQCSP)			
Financial Year	Funding Allocation \$'000	Deferral / (Bring Forward) \$'000	Funding Expended \$'000
2021-22	25,000	(25,162)	50,162
2022-23	24,838	8,491	16,347
2023-24	34,419	(928)	-
2024-25	50,000	-	-
2025-26	40,000	-	-
2026-27	10,000	-	-
			66,509

d) The amount of funding remaining post 2022-23 in each program will be dependent on council progress in delivering approved projects. Per grant program guidelines for the above programs, grant funding project payments are made by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning based on councils achieving project delivery milestones. The department works closely with councils to monitor delivery of projects.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 9

Asked on 11 July 2023

The State Development and Regional Industries Committee asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (HON S MILES) –

QUESTION:

What resources has the Deputy Premier allocated to reduce the risk of rate payers in small remote councils bearing the cost of undertaking traditional owner road clearances for local government road construction and particularly if further requirements are made on local councils in this regard?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is committed to working with the local government sector to address the financial and resourcing challenges faced by small, remote, and Indigenous councils in delivering the infrastructure and services their communities need.

The Rural and Remote Council Compact has also been established to provide rural and remote councils with an opportunity to advocate on key issues they face. Key focus areas to date have included roads, housing, and sustainability.

Additionally, the Queensland Government provides significant funding support for small, remote, and Indigenous councils to deliver infrastructure for their communities.

This includes through the Works for Queensland program, which supports the 65 non-South East Queensland councils deliver important maintenance and infrastructure projects.

At the 2020 State Election, the Queensland Government committed a further \$400 million over six years (2021-2027) to continue this important program and provide certainty of funding to councils.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 10

Asked on 11 July 2023

The State Development and Regional Industries Committee asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (HON S MILES) –

QUESTION:

Can the Deputy Premier advise whether the government provides road maintenance funding for the repair of local roads affected by a project that has been granted coordinated project status?

ANSWER:

The coordinated project status is an environmental impact statement process, not a funding tool. Frameworks under the *Planning Act 2016* for infrastructure assessment and proponent contributions apply to coordinated projects in the same way as any other project in Queensland.

Infrastructure agreements are provided for under the Planning Act as an alternative to local government infrastructure charges for local services, such as roads, being leveed to a proponent as required under a planning scheme. This means the infrastructure agreement would override the local government infrastructure plan.

For coordinated projects, the Coordinator-General can recommend conditions, through the evaluation report, for infrastructure agreements to be negotiated between the proponent and local governments relevant to the project. Such recommendations would occur where the Coordinator-General recognises that a project would generate additional traffic and warrant the proponent to contribute towards the cost of road pavement maintenance and rehabilitation.

The infrastructure agreement process involves negotiation between the project proponent and local government to provide certainty on the extent of works and funds required to offset the project's impact on local roads. The Coordinator-General would generally expect the infrastructure agreement to be in place prior to a project commencing or generating unacceptable impacts.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 11

Asked on 11 July 2023

The State Development and Regional Industries Committee asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (HON S MILES) –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 6 of the SDS, will the Deputy Premier inform the committee how the Palaszczuk Government is working with local governments to build their financial sustainability?

ANSWER:

Queensland's councils play a critical role in creating the best, most liveable local communities right across the State and the Queensland Government is committed to working with councils to ensure a strong and sustainable local government sector now and into the future.

All councils face unique financial, service delivery and community need challenges, which can be impacted by a range of factors that affect a council's long-term sustainability. To help address these challenges, the Queensland Government has worked with councils and stakeholders to develop a new, fit for purpose Local Government Sustainability Framework (Sustainability Framework).

The new Sustainability Framework provides a more holistic approach considering council sustainability, across five key areas – finances, assets, governance, compliance, and operating environment.

The Sustainability Framework formally commenced on 1 July 2023, with the implementation of the *Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2023 version 1* (the Statutory Guideline). The new Statutory Guideline includes an expanded set of ratios to monitor council financial and asset management performance.

The Sustainability Framework will allow for more holistic and proactive monitoring of council sustainability challenges and will better support the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning to develop and implement tailored solutions.

Additionally, the Queensland Government works closely with local governments and other stakeholders to provide financial and governance advice and training to councillors and council officers that helps build and enhance financial management capability across Queensland's local government sector.

A series of financial management and sustainability workshops for councillors and senior council employees were delivered in 2022-23, in conjunction with the Queensland Treasury Corporation. Three hundred and eighty-eight councillors and council staff attended these workshops.

The department's Finance Officers' Networks delivered 12 face-to-face and virtual sessions that were well attended, with 343 council staff participating state-wide. This is an important initiative to strengthen sustainability of local governments and to provide opportunity for expertise development in financial reporting and management.

Sessions for councils focussed on service standards and compliance with accounting standards have also been provided by the department during 2022/2023.

The department is also aware that a key part of financial sustainability is an effective asset management system. The department has begun a project, in collaboration with the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia to better understand the state of asset management within Queensland local governments and to tailor targeted capacity building initiatives.

The department is working closely with Indigenous local governments to identify options for addressing key sustainability challenges, including analysing how critical assets are managed and how corporate services are provided. This project is aiming to work hand in hand with Indigenous local governments to address long-term capability challenges to give rise to longer-term sustainability.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 12

Asked on 11 July 2023

The State Development and Regional Industries Committee asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (HON S MILES) –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 4 of the SDS, will the Deputy Premier advise how the Palaszczuk Government's Queensland New Industry Development Strategy (QNIDS) is helping Queensland businesses develop new industries and access manufacturing opportunities to build the infrastructure and products that are in growing demand in a decarbonising world?

ANSWER:

Queensland has a successful track record of industry development by leveraging our competitive advantages to create jobs, diversify the state's economy and harness emerging industries.

Global and domestic decarbonisation efforts have driven growth in industries that create the essential products, materials and generate the clean energy necessary for the transition to net-zero.

Queensland is uniquely placed to capitalise on decarbonisation due to the state's abundant natural resources, skilled and trained workforce, and first-class infrastructure to build supply chains and expand the state's industrial footprint.

The Queensland New-Industry Development Strategy, released on 19 May 2023, leverages these strengths to expand Queensland's global footprint in industries on the forefront of decarbonisation.

There are six key areas that the Strategy focuses on: renewable energy manufacturing and infrastructure, critical minerals, battery supply chains, green hydrogen, the circular economy, and the bioeconomy.

The Strategy deploys place-based approaches to deliver Regional Transitional Plans supported by the \$200 million Regional Economic Futures Fund to finance activities that help diversify regional economies. The new Local Economic Opportunities Network is now operating to work with communities across the state to identify opportunities for economic diversification and promote these for investment consideration.

The Strategy is also supported by the \$5.84 billion Queensland Jobs Fund as well as an accelerated program of integrated land use and infrastructure planning and continual deployment of the Queensland Government's industry development services.

Together, the Strategy grows Queensland's economy, empowers regional energy transformation, and develops the industries that are key for Queensland to meet its decarbonisation targets.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 13

Asked on 11 July 2023

The State Development and Regional Industries Committee asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (HON S MILES) –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 6 of the SDS, will the Deputy Premier update the committee on how the Palaszczuk Government is supporting local governments across the state to deliver additional homes?

ANSWER:

Local governments in Queensland play a vital role in delivering additional homes by overseeing urban planning and zoning, approving developments, providing necessary infrastructure and services, implementing affordable housing initiatives, engaging with the community, leading urban renewal projects, formulating housing strategies and policies, monitoring compliance, and contributing to the overall growth and well-being of their local government area in collaboration with state and federal authorities.

The Queensland Government is assisting local governments to deliver additional homes through various actions and initiatives, including:

1. Leading work on the South East Queensland, Wide Bay Burnett, Far North Queensland and Cape York regional plan reviews. In turn local governments can align their housing strategies and local planning schemes with these regional plans, enabling a coordinated approach to housing delivery.
2. Funding the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils to prepare local housing action plans, empowering smaller councils to address housing shortages and affordability concerns in their regions.
3. Providing funds to the Local Government Association of Queensland for developing 38 Local Housing Action Plans, fostering collaboration and a unified effort among local governments across the state.
4. The Queensland Rural Workers' Accommodation Initiative helps rural local governments address accommodation shortages for essential workers, allowing repurposing of underutilized facilities for temporary accommodation and enabling small-scale rural workers' housing without development approval, while also working on long-term solutions with local governments.
5. Identifying opportunities for council-owned land and buildings to be used for additional housing.
6. Establishing the Growth Areas Program and providing funds like the \$150 million Catalyst Infrastructure Fund and the \$50 million Growth Acceleration Fund to expedite essential infrastructure delivery, promoting residential land supply and development.

7. Delivering the \$210 million Growth Area Compact to coordinate enabling infrastructure for affordable housing options in Caboolture West, benefiting the City of Moreton Bay Council.
8. Amending the infrastructure designation pathway to ease regulatory hurdles for local governments supporting social or affordable housing by community housing providers.
9. Partnering with local governments and industry to create a community engagement and awareness campaign covering growth and housing diversity, raising public awareness and support for both state and local housing initiatives.
10. Assisting Redland City Council in developing a housing supply and diversity strategy, providing expert advice and resources at the states expense to ensure up to date and effective housing strategies for the local government area.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 14

Asked on 11 July 2023

The State Development and Regional Industries Committee asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (HON S MILES) –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 21 of the SDS, will the Deputy Premier outline for the committee how Priority Development Areas (PDAs) are unlocking residential lot supply and growing priority industries in Queensland?

ANSWER:

Priority Development Areas are a powerful tool, providing fit for purpose planning instruments and a streamlined development assessment process, enabling government to respond to community needs and support economic growth.

The vision and purpose of a Priority Development Area is specific to each one but within most of the 35 declared areas, housing delivery is a key focus.

There are currently 200,000 dwellings planned across the Priority Development Areas, including within the four major greenfield areas and key urban renewal precincts at Northshore Hamilton and Bowen Hills.

Since 2020, over 10,000 dwelling lots have been delivered with another 12,700 residential lots and apartments approved for delivery. This includes more than 2,600 residential lots and 615 apartment dwellings approved in 2022-23.

Social and affordable housing is also a requirement in many Priority Development Areas. Over 8,600 social and 39,000 affordable dwellings are proposed. To date around 800 social dwellings and over 10,000 affordable dwellings have been delivered.

Flexibility is a major benefit of Priority Development Areas with innovation encouraged in delivering a range of housing typologies that meet community need but would be otherwise be unavailable outside a declared area.

Economic Development Queensland continues to investigate potential new Priority Development Areas including at North Harbour and a new, larger Priority Development Area in Woolloongabba. Investigations are also underway into a potential declaration at Caboolture West.

The provision of critical infrastructure is vital to the on-going development of housing. Economic Development Queensland oversees the Building Acceleration Fund, working with councils, developers and utility providers to invest in infrastructure, including in Priority Development Areas.

Recently work was completed on essential road infrastructure at Yarrabilba, unlocking 2,000 lots for residential development and paving the way for the site of a new Yarrabilba primary school and access to the Yarrabilba town centre. Through the Building and Acceleration Fund, \$15 million was provided for this work, supporting around 100 jobs.

Other catalyst infrastructure funding has unlocked \$41.5 million and more than 13,000 lots in the Ripley Valley and \$83 million and 25,300 lots in Greater Flagstone Priority Development Areas through the provision of transport, water and sewer infrastructure.

Priority Development Areas also support industry. Major health-related developments are now underway at Lumina on the Gold Coast including the new RDX building, a \$154 million 6 Star Green Star development focussed on life science, research and health/med tech innovation. This is in addition to the Proxima building which is an \$80 million children's health and education centre of excellence due for completion in March 2024.

Meanwhile, at Northshore, Vaxxas has opened its needle-free vaccine research and manufacturing facility, enabling it to produce needle-free vaccine technology to manufacture up to 300 million vaccines a year, providing almost 140 high value jobs.

Northshore will also be home to the Brisbane Athlete Village for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, accommodating approximately 16,000 athletes, para-athletes and team officials. In the 2023-24 State Budget, \$154.7 million was allocated to enable Economic Development Queensland to bring forward the delivery of public infrastructure required to deliver the infrastructure, services and the land.

A significant legacy of the Brisbane Athlete Village will be its delivery of housing supply across multiple key markets including social and affordable housing, aged care, retirement living, key worker and build-to-rent accommodation, hotel stock and market housing.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 15

Asked on 11 July 2023

The State Development and Regional Industries Committee asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (HON S MILES) –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 3 of the SDS, will the Deputy Premier advise the committee how the Palaszczuk Government is working with the Albanese Federal Government and industry to ensure Cairns ensures its future as a marine maintenance leader, and continues to meet the growing demand for ship maintenance work across our region?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government and Albanese Federal Government are working collaboratively to ensure that Cairns remains a regional leader in ship maintenance, repair and overhaul work.

Together, both Governments have committed a total of \$360 million towards the development of a common user facility at the Cairns Marine Precinct, which will include a 5,000 tonne shiplift, blast and paint facilities, hardstand areas and wet berth capacity.

This will provide Cairns shipyards with the additional infrastructure needed to meet growing demand from existing customers and markets, as well as being able to access new markets for maintenance of larger vessels.

It is anticipated the common user facility will be used to maintain a variety of vessels, including Defence, Australian Border Force, commercial and private vessels, such as superyachts.

As Cairns is the Regional Maintenance Centre North-East for the maintenance of Defence vessels, the Queensland Government has been in consultation with the Department of Defence to ensure that the common user facility will be suitable to meet their anticipated requirements.

Preconstruction investigations for the common user facility are underway, which will inform the next stages of the project.

The Queensland Government and Australian Government will continue to work together to ensure timely progression of this catalytic project, which will bring long-term economic benefits to the community of Far North Queensland.

The common user facility will be complemented by a number of other projects within the Cairns Marine Precinct being supported by the Queensland Government.

A further \$27 million has been committed for a road and bridge upgrade to allow increased load capacity to and from the common user facility.

\$12 million in funding has also been allocated for the Cairns shipyards to make immediate upgrades to their existing facilities. This will be administered through the Industry Partnership Program, subject to matched industry funding and satisfactory business cases.

To support marine industry skills development, the Great Barrier Reef International Marine College is receiving \$16 million to expand its campus. The expansion will include a new workshop, additional classrooms, staff facilities and a boat shed. This will help TAFE Queensland to deliver more marine industry training in region, for new students and to upskill the existing maritime workforce.

With the Palaszczuk Government and Albanese Federal Government working together to provide targeted support to the marine industry, Cairns will continue to go from strength to strength as a leader in the maintenance, repair and overhaul of marine vessels for years to come.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 16

Asked on 11 July 2023

The State Development and Regional Industries Committee asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (HON S MILES) –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 4 of the SDS, will the Deputy Premier inform the committee of the projects announced and funded under the Queensland Government's Industry Partnership Program (IPP), and how they are growing priority industry sectors such as hydrogen, biofutures, biomedical, resource recovery and recycling, batteries, critical minerals processing, and renewable energy manufacturing?

ANSWER:

Since the Industry Partnership Program (IPP) opened in June 2021, 18 projects have been approved with a project value of over \$1.1 billion and with the potential to create over 1,856 ongoing operational jobs. The program has also leveraged \$154.58 million in Commonwealth Government funding for Queensland projects.

The program will now be redesigned with an additional \$53.5 million to support the Queensland New-Industry Development Strategy which aims to develop industries that will be in demand as the world decarbonises. These industries include renewable energy manufacturing, critical minerals, battery industry development, green hydrogen, resource recovery and recycling, and the bioeconomy, including biofuels and sustainable aviation fuel.

An additional \$12 million will also be invested through the program to support an upgrade to the existing facilities at the Cairns Marine Precinct to ensure the Precinct will continue to deliver as the premier marine maintenance and sustainment hub in Northern Australia. The funding will support projects from Austal, Norship and Tropical Reef Shipyard to upgrade existing shipyard facilities and associated infrastructure in the Cairns Marine Precinct to capture unmet and growing demand in Defence, Australian Border Force, commercial and superyacht maintenance, repair and overhaul opportunities.

With IPP funding now reaching \$415.5 million, there is more opportunity to support projects that create economic opportunities by addressing supply chain gaps, creating sovereign capabilities, and expanding strengths across industries. Projects that have been announced to date include:

- Fortescue Future Industries’ green hydrogen facility near Gladstone, which will help Queensland to become a world leader in hydrogen generation and the renewable-hydrogen supply chain.
- Alpha HPA’s construction of a commercial plant for high purity alumina nitrate aluminium sulphate for use in lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles and LED lighting. The project will support decarbonisation by producing products for lithium batteries.
- Queensland University of Technology’s upgrade of the Mackay renewable biocommodities pilot plant. The project will build on Queensland’s growing biofutures industry, increasing the uptake of renewable bioproduct technologies in Australia by developing innovative and commercially viable products.
- Visy Industries’ upgrade to the Visy material recovery facility on Gibson Island, which will divert up to 39,000 tonnes of material from landfill, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Translational Research Institute’s state-of-the-art new translational manufacturing facility. The project will support Queensland’s growing pipeline of startups, shoring up Queensland’s sovereign manufacturing capabilities, and in particular the state’s ability to develop new vaccines and medical treatments locally.
- Veeco Group’s vanadium battery electrolyte manufacturing facility at Townsville, which will support Queensland to transition to a cleaner, more reliable and renewable energy system.

Assessment of current applications under the program continues, and additional projects are expected to be approved and announced in the coming months.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 17

Asked on 11 July 2023

The State Development and Regional Industries Committee asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (HON S MILES) –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 28 of the SDS, will the Deputy Premier provide details to the committee on how much the Palaszczuk Government has invested in betterment initiatives for Queenslanders who have been affected by natural disasters?

ANSWER:

Queensland leads the nation in building resilience in its communities through betterment programs.

Since 2015, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority has administered six betterment programs valued at more than \$352 million, including \$190 million currently in delivery across the state.

The betterment funding supports local governments and state agencies to rebuild essential public infrastructure such as roads, bridges and floodways to a more resilient standard to better protect Queenslanders.

Queensland has shown how rebuilding impacted infrastructure to a more resilient standard minimises the impacts of future disasters and avoids associated repair costs.

Since 2015, more than 299 projects across 64 local government areas in Queensland have been approved for Betterment funding, helping to create stronger, more resilient communities. From an investment of more than \$98 million in projects that have been re-impacted since the completion of the 2015 program, we have seen approximately \$105.5 million in avoided reconstruction costs, representing close to \$7 million in savings.

Highlights of Betterment fund projects since 2015 includes:

- more than \$3.1 million invested in improvements to the popular tourist route of Pilbeam Drive in Rockhampton
- more than \$3.2 million to increase the resilience of the important rural connector May Downs-Carfax Road in the Isaac region
- and more than \$9.4 million for Cloncurry's Sedan Dip Road, a major livestock route.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 18

Asked on 11 July 2023

The State Development and Regional Industries Committee asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (HON S MILES) –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 30 of the SDS, will the Deputy Premier advise the committee how many Queenslanders have had their homes bought back, as part of the Resilient Homes Fund, following damage during the southern Queensland flooding of 2022?

ANSWER:

The Resilient Homes Fund was established in May 2022 to help flood-affected Queenslanders improve the resilience of their home to future flooding or remove impacted homeowners from harm's way.

Voluntary Home Buy-Back has been identified for homes that were the most severely impacted and at the greatest risk of future flooding.

To date, 771 valuation inspections have been undertaken as part of this program. 603 offers have been presented to homeowners 447 offers accepted, and 273 contracts have settled.

Once an agreement is reached, the property and the land will be purchased by the local council, the building demolished or removed and the land rezoned to non-occupiable use. This will ensure that no resident will have to suffer the devastating impacts of flooding in that location again.

Initially, 500 homes were identified for Voluntary Home Buy-Back. Given the significant demand for the program, additional homeowners at high risk of flooding have been identified to participate in the buy-back program. The expansion will be funded through efficiencies identified in the existing disaster funding allocation.

The expansion has enabled an additional 300 properties to be identified for buy-back. In total, more than 800 properties have now been identified for the program. The Voluntary Home Buy-Back program closed on 18 June 2023.

This is the first recovery and resilience program of its kind to be offered in Australia and is changing Queenslanders' lives – as well as the region's resilience to flooding.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 19

Asked on 11 July 2023

The State Development and Regional Industries Committee asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (HON S MILES) –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 4 of the SDS, will the Deputy Premier update the committee on The Spit master plan implementation on the Gold Coast and how it is delivering better facilities to the community?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government's \$60 million commitment to support the implementation of The Spit Master Plan continues to deliver better facilities for the community. The implementation is being delivered in partnership with City of Gold Coast and the Gold Coast Waterways Authority, with ongoing community consultation and engagement.

The recently completed Marine Stadium Jetty and Pontoon brings \$15.8 million to the value of projects delivered on The Spit, including the Seaworld Drive shared pathway, Moondarewa Spit redevelopment, and the award-winning Seaway Promenade, which received the 2022 AILA National Landscape Architecture Award for Parks and Open Space.

During consultation on the master plan, the community asked for better water quality in Marine Stadium to support recreational activities. Over the last year, we implemented management changes, and the water quality is improving. The new jetty is a great place to cast a line now.

Over the next year, the state is contributing \$12.1 million towards upgrades at Muriel Henchman Park to boat ramps and public parking and facilities. The Gold Coast Waterways Authority commenced these works in July and expects completion by June 2024.

The state is contributing \$5.2 million towards the establishment of a littoral rainforest in Federation Walk Coastal Reserve. This is a ten-year project, revitalising 37 hectares of critically endangered littoral rainforest and coastal vegetation for future generations. The Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning are working with the City of Gold Coast to ensure the reserve is accessible to people of all abilities.

The department has been leading the preparation of technical design documents for directional and interpretive signs to be installed across The Spit. The department is also working with community representatives, traditional owners and subject matter experts to extract their knowledge, experiences and stories to reflect the rich history across The Spit, contributing to its distinct character.

Development sites released will deliver community facilities such as a landscaped harbour linking the Broadwater and the ocean, extension of the Broadwater pathway and new and improved public parking.

The government's commitment to The Spit Master Plan has given industry the certainty needed to invest on The Spit. Almost \$1.5 billion of development applications have been lodged, with more to come. This will see the village community grow with new residential, retail and dining options all creating jobs on The Spit.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 20

Asked on 11 July 2023

The State Development and Regional Industries Committee asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (HON S MILES) –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 35 of the SDS, will the Deputy Premier update the committee on the South Bank master plan?

ANSWER:

Thirty years on from World Expo '88, South Bank continues to be one of the state's most iconic destinations and a globally recognised riverside precinct.

A draft master plan has been developed by the South Bank Corporation with a vision for the precinct to remain Brisbane's most lively, green and inclusive place for current and future generations. The draft master plan has been through an extensive process of community and stakeholder consultation, with over 15,000 pieces of feedback received.

The intention of the new master plan is to set out a vision for the future of the precinct for the next 30 years and beyond.

The Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning is leading state agency feedback and engagement on the final master plan and working closely with South Bank Corporation to finalise the master plan.

Following this process, the final South Bank master plan will be prepared by South Bank Corporation for government consideration by early 2024.

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

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to Biosecurity Queensland's operations, will the Minister outline the breakdown of the state government's funding for general biosecurity projects and programs:

- a) animal measures and plant based measures (reported separately 2020-23),
- b) cattle tick monitoring and enforcement measures (reported separately 2020-23);
- c) fire ant monitoring, eradication and enforcement measures (reported separately 2020-23)?

ANSWER:

All figures provided are Queensland Government funding only.

a) animal measures and plant based measures (reported separately 2020-23)

Animal and plant measures as delivered through Biosecurity Queensland's Animal Biosecurity and Welfare, Plant Biosecurity and Product Integrity and Invasive Plants and Animal business areas. The figures do not include corporate overheads or the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program which is outlined in section 'c' below.

Business/Work area	State government revenue			
	2019-20 \$'000	2020-21 \$'000	2021-22 \$'000	2022-23 \$'000
Animal Biosecurity	12,612	16,229	14,045	16,881
Animal Welfare	4,579	4,538	4,699	5,523
Plant Biosecurity & Product Integrity	13,601	13,129	11,557	15,156
Invasive Plants and Animals	14,284	12,884	13,832	16,143
Total	45,076	46,780	44,133	53,703

b) cattle tick monitoring and enforcement measures (reported separately 2020-23)

Business area	State government revenue			
	2019-20 \$'000	2020-21 \$'000	2021-22 \$'000	2022-23 \$'000
Cattle tick monitoring and enforcement	943	655	676	550

c) fire ant monitoring, eradication and enforcement measures (reported separately 2020-23)

Business/Work area	State government revenue			
	2019-20 \$'000	2020-21 \$'000	2021-22 \$'000	2022-23 \$'000
Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program	14,148	16,135	1	0
Fire Ant Suppression Taskforce	0	0	127	2,718
Total	14,148	16,135	128	2,718

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2022 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 2

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to the Service Delivery Statements (SDS) page 9 relating to DAF's capital program for 2022-23 – Will the Minister provide a list of approved projects including:

- a) the budget and scope of each project for 2021-22 and 2022-23 reported separately and
- b) the scheduled date of completion (reported in table format)?

ANSWER:

The DAF capital program is focused on developing and upgrading research facilities, existing infrastructure, and land improvements to support service delivery outcomes for the agriculture, biosecurity, fisheries, and forestry sectors.

The first table below reflects the published capital program budget for 2021-22 that includes both capital purchases and capital grants.

DAF 2021-22 CAPITAL PROGRAM			
CAPITAL PURCHASES IN 2021-22			
Capital Project Name	Scope	2021-2022 Budget \$'000	Scheduled Date of Completion
Assets formerly held by Qld Agricultural Training Colleges (QATC)	Develop a new Central Qld Smart Cropping Centre at Emerald.	4,650	30/06/2024
Computer equipment	Purchase of computer infrastructure equipment such as servers and routers.	4,290	Ongoing
Other property, plant and equipment	Upgrade of fencing structures and purchase of livestock.	2,372	Ongoing
Scientific equipment	Purchase of scientific equipment such as microscopes, autoclaves, centrifuges, ultra-low temperature freezers.	2,242	Ongoing
Heavy plant and equipment	Purchase of agricultural machinery such as tractors, irrigators and all- terrain vehicles.	2,031	Ongoing

Research facilities development	Upgrades and replacement of infrastructure such as laboratories and glasshouses at research facilities.	1,957	Ongoing
Minor works	Upgrades and replacement of infrastructure such as sheds and sewerage systems at operational facilities.	1,356	Ongoing
Smart Farms Initiative	New glasshouse and infrastructure at Gatton.	1,200	30/06/2023
Upgrade and refurbishment of existing facilities at Toowoomba	Continue the upgrade and refurbishment of existing facilities to enhance service delivery while complying with new building and safety standards.	954	30/06/2022
Vessels and marine equipment	Upgrades and replacement of patrol vessels, trailers and marine safety equipment.	816	Ongoing
Upgrade of Mareeba research facility	Upgrade of laboratories at the Mareeba research facility.	790	30/06/2022
Mid-life refit of the patrol vessel "KI Ross"	Refit and refurbishment of the patrol vessel known as the "KI Ross".	418	30/06/2022
Ecosciences and Health and Food Various Sciences Precincts fit-out	Replace and upgrade fit-out equipment such as cold-rooms and shade-sails.	325	Ongoing
Software purchases and development	Development of digital software information systems.	300	Ongoing
TOTAL CAPITAL PURCHASES FOR 2021-22		\$23,701	
CAPITAL GRANTS IN 2021-22			
Capital Grant Name	Scope	2021-22 Budget \$000	Scheduled Date of Completion
Assets formerly held by Qld Agricultural Training Colleges (QATC)	Contribution to the Longreach Regional Council to establish a regional training facility.	1,000	30/06/2023
Young Animal Protection Society (YAPS)	Contribution towards the upgrade of adoption facilities in Cairns.	500	30/06/2023
TOTAL CAPITAL GRANTS FOR 2021-22		\$1,500	
TOTAL CAPITAL PURCHASES AND GRANTS FOR 2021-22		\$25,201	

The table below reflects the published capital program budget for 2022-2023 that includes both capital purchases and capital grants.

DAF 2022-23 CAPITAL PROGRAM			
CAPITAL PURCHASES IN 2022-23			
Capital Project Name	Scope	2022-23 Budget \$'000	Scheduled Date of Completion
Computer Equipment	Enhancements of Information Technology Network services.	3,187	Ongoing
Assets formerly held by Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges	Finalise long-term decisions on the future of assets formerly held by the QATC, including a new Central Queensland Smart Cropping Centre at Emerald.	2,700	30/06/2025
Heavy Plant and Equipment	Purchase of agricultural machinery such as tractors, irrigators and all-terrain vehicles.	2,586	Ongoing
Upgrade to Mareeba Research Facility	Continue the upgrade of fruit handling laboratories enabling scientists to provide research services to the expanding and new horticultural industries at Mareeba.	2,520	30/06/2023
Research Facilities Development	Upgrades and replacement of infrastructure such as laboratories and glasshouses at research facilities.	1,796	Ongoing
Scientific Equipment	Purchase of scientific equipment such as microscopes, autoclaves, centrifuges, ultra-low temperature freezers.	1,762	Ongoing
Wild Dog Barrier Fence	Enhancements to Wild Dog Barrier Fence and office equipment.	1,400	Ongoing
Minor Works	Upgrades and replacement of infrastructure such as sheds and sewerage systems at operational facilities.	1,327	Ongoing
Gatton Smart Farm	Upgrade infrastructure and equipment to support horticulture productivity and profitability.	1,200	30/06/2024
Fit-out of Ecosciences and Health and Food Sciences Precincts	Replace and upgrade fit-out equipment such as cold-rooms and shade-sails.	953	Ongoing
Other Property, Plant and Equipment	Purchase of livestock and enhancement of office equipment.	673	Ongoing
Longreach Office Upgrade	Upgrades to aged air conditioning at the Longreach office.	600	30/06/2023
Vessels and Marine Equipment	Continue to replace vessels and marine equipment for fisheries research and regulatory functions.	552	Ongoing
Maroochy Research Facility Spillway Upgrade	Design and project management of new dam spillway at Maroochy Research Facility.	300	30/06/2023
Gatton Research Facility Fire Hydrant Upgrade	Upgrade to aged fire hydrant system at Gatton Research Facility.	270	30/06/2023

Tor Street Toowoomba Complex Fire Hydrant Upgrade	Upgrade to aged fire hydrant system at Tor Street complex.	150	30/06/2023
TOTAL CAPITAL PURCHASES FOR 2022-23		21,976	
CAPITAL GRANTS IN 2022-23			
Capital Grant Name	Scope	2022-23 Budget \$'000	Scheduled Date of Completion
Assets formerly held by Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges	Finalise long-term decisions on the future of assets formerly held by the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges.	4,000	30/06/2023
Young Animal Protection Society Upgrade	Contribution towards the upgrade of adoption facilities in Cairns.	1,000	30/06/2023
Queensland Country Women's Association Building Restoration and Renovation	To continue minor works upgrades to infrastructure, including community halls.	500	30/06/2024
TOTAL CAPITAL GRANTS FOR 2022-23		5,500	
TOTAL CAPITAL PURCHASES AND GRANTS FOR		27,476	

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 3

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 9 and staffing service areas – Will the Minister provide a breakdown of staff numbers specifically broken down by location base, into the following categories reported separately for 2022-23:

- i. agriculture;
- ii. biosecurity;
- iii. fishing;
- iv. forestries;
- v. Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) and
- vi. the number of graduate roles, what the roles are, and if they are aligned with a particular service area?

ANSWER:

As of 30 June 2023, the active FTE was 2101.39. The ability to respond to changing circumstances is fundamental to the department achieving its purpose. To this end, multi-disciplinary teams that work across disciplines and with other agencies, including industry, are critical so that adequate capability and capacity exists to support Queensland's thriving agricultural sector.

REGIONAL BREAKUP	i. Agriculture	ii. Biosecurity	iii. Fisheries	iv. Forestry	TOTAL
Brisbane CBD	93.83	110.43	84.3	33.05	321.61
Central	83.03	23.25	18	16.11	140.39
North	151.33	75.22	49.55	9	285.1
South	488.59	333.07	81.75	49.6	953.01
Corporate Allocation	89.41	61.47	24.39	11	186.27
Total	906.19	603.44	257.99	118.76	1 886.39

Above numbers is exclusive of 215 FTE servicing other departments

QRIDA

Location Breakup	Temporary	Permanent	FTE
Brisbane	21.2	84.98	106.18
Bundaberg		1	1
Cloncurry		1	1
Emerald		1	1
Innisfail		1	1
Kingaroy		2	2
Mackay		1	1
Rockhampton		1	1
Roma		1.6	1.6
Toowoomba	3	8	88
Townsville	1		1
Regional Other*	19.46	12	31.46
Total	44.66	114.58	159.24

As at 30 June 2023, QRIDA's actual full-time equivalent (FTE) was 159.24 FTE against a 2022-23 budget of 149 FTE, with some 33% of its workforce regionally-based to best service the rural and regional communities. QRIDA uses a flexible staffing model for processing applications for financial assistance and temporary staff are engaged and fluctuate in alignment with the incoming volumes of applications. Engaging temporary staff ensures QRIDA's processing times for financial assistance applications deliver these much-needed funds to Queenslanders as quickly as possible.

Graduates

As of 30 June 2023, the number of DAF graduate roles was 23.

- 18 graduates as part of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) graduate connect program
- One graduate as part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) Policy Futures Program.
- Four graduates as part of the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) Queensland Government Digital Graduate Program.

The Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) has joined the department's graduate connect program with two additional graduate roles. The total number of DAF graduate program roles across QRIDA and DAF is 25.

ALL GRADUATE ROLES						
LOCATION BREAKUP	i. AGRICULTURE	ii. BIOSECURITY	CORPORATE	iii. FISHERIES	v. QRIDA	Total
Biloela	1					1
Brisbane City	4	1	6		2	13
Charleville	1					1
Dutton Park	2					2
Emerald	1					1
Nambour				1		1
Rockhampton	2					2
South Johnstone	1					1
Toowoomba	2					2
Townsville	1					1
TOTAL	15	1	6	1	2	25

Note that Forestry currently does not have any graduate roles.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 4

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 4, Biosecurity Queensland and fire ant detection and treatment – Will the Minister outline (reported separately by year from 2020 – 2023 and Local Government area) the:

- number of reports of fire ant detection,
- number of sightings,
- number of treatments, and
- treatment methods used by DAF officers?

ANSWER:

Number of reports of fire ants – **noting that not all reports are confirmed as fire ants**

Number of reports of fire ants – by Financial Year and LGA				
LGA	2019 – 20	2020 – 21	2021 – 22	2022 – 23
Ballarat City	1	0	0	0
Ballina Shire Council	0	0	0	1
Balonne Shire	0	1	0	0
Banana Shire	3	1	0	4
Bathurst Regional Council	0	1	0	0
Blacktown City Council	0	0	0	1
Boroondara City	0	0	1	0
Brisbane City	2208	3479	3555	3056
Bundaberg Regional	13	11	17	15
Burdekin Shire	5	0	0	2
Cairns Regional	6	8	4	23
Camden Council	0	0	1	0
Casey City	1	1	0	0
Cassowary Coast Regional	0	1	2	2
Central Coast Council	0	0	0	1
Central Highlands Regional	0	1	2	5
Charters Towers Regional	1	2	2	0
City of Mandurah	1	0	0	0
City of Onkaparinga	0	1	0	0

City of Parramatta Council	0	0	0	1
City of Perth	0	0	0	1
City of Stirling	0	1	0	0
Clarence Valley Council	1	0	1	0
Cloncurry Shire	0	1	0	1
Coffs Harbour City Council	0	0	0	2
Cook Shire	0	0	0	2
Coomalie Shire	0	0	0	1
Darwin Municipality	0	0	1	1
Douglas Shire	1	0	0	1
Dubbo Regional Council	0	0	0	1
Flinders Shire	0	0	0	2
Fraser Coast Regional	17	18	26	18
Gladstone Regional	14	18	14	13
Gold Coast City	1011	1604	2229	1877
Goondiwindi Regional	0	1	5	2
Gympie Regional	11	11	21	12
Hinchinbrook Shire	0	1	0	0
Hume City	0	0	1	0
Inverell Shire Council	0	0	1	1
Ipswich City	2209	3673	4689	3085
Isaac Regional	4	1	0	1
Ku-Ring-Gai Council	0	0	0	1
Kyogle Council	0	1	0	0
Lismore City Council	0	1	2	1
Livingstone Shire	1	5	0	7
Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire	0	0	0	1
Lockyer Valley Regional	133	86	140	183
Logan City	4145	7022	8699	6663
Longreach Regional	1	1	1	0
Mackay Regional	6	4	2	3
Maranoa Regional	2	1	0	3
Mareeba Shire	1	1	0	2
Mid-Coast Council	0	0	0	1
Monash City	0	0	0	1
Moreton Bay Regional	184	395	402	587
Mosman Municipal Council	0	0	0	1
Mount Isa City	2	1	0	2
Murweh Shire	1	1	0	0
Newcastle City Council	0	1	0	0
Noosa Shire	13	21	13	15
North Burnett Regional	2	1	6	2
North Sydney Council	0	0	0	1
Northern Beaches Council	0	0	0	1

Paroo Shire	0	0	1	0
Penrith City Council	0	0	0	1
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council	0	1	1	0
Port Phillip City	0	1	2	0
Port Stephens Council	0	2	0	1
Randwick City Council	0	0	0	1
Redland City	197	335	298	465
Richmond Shire	1	0	1	0
Rockhampton Regional	5	10	5	7
Ryde City Council	0	0	0	3
Scenic Rim Regional	192	322	404	344
Shire of Kalamunda	0	0	2	0
Somerset Regional	55	66	71	75
South Burnett Regional	2	7	5	8
Southern Downs Regional	5	12	11	13
Sunshine Coast Regional	76	99	63	85
Sutherland Shire Council	0	0	0	1
Tablelands Regional	2	1	1	5
The Council of the Shire of Hornsby	0	0	0	1
The Hills Shire Council	0	0	0	1
The Rural City of Murray Bridge	0	0	1	0
Toowoomba Regional	40	45	37	60
Townsville City	15	16	5	11
Tweed Shire Council	3	2	0	1
Wagga Wagga City Council	0	0	1	0
Waverley Council	0	0	1	0
Western Downs Regional	5	0	5	8
Whitehorse City	0	1	0	0
Whitsunday Regional	7	5	0	5
Wollongong City Council	0	0	1	1
Wyndham City	1	0	0	0
Yarra Ranges Shire	0	0	0	1
Blank*	1	5	1141	559
Grand Total	10605	17308	21894	17264

*Public reports where the location details were not provided.

Number of sightings (where detections have been confirmed as RIFA. This includes Public Reports and Program identified sites)

Number of reports of fire ant sightings – by Financial Year and LGA				
LGA	2019 – 20	2020 – 21	2021 – 22	2022 – 23
Brisbane City	1622	1895	1951	2045
Gold Coast City	498	773	866	1071
Ipswich City	2063	2728	3302	2707
Lockyer Valley Regional	11	8	33	152
Logan City	4052	4705	5424	4829
Moreton Bay Regional	0	6	4	7
Redland City	118	139	140	296
Scenic Rim Regional	130	244	387	455
Somerset Regional	11	20	11	17
Toowoomba Regional	0	0	0	3
Grand Total	8505	10518	12118	11582

Number of treatments – Total number of sites treated including public reports and planned treatment

Number of sites treated for fire ants – by Financial Year and LGA				
LGA	2019 – 20	2020 – 21	2021 – 22	2022 – 23
Brisbane City	5063	6769	6013	4563
Gold Coast City	8097	4977	41763	4025
Ipswich City	16955	42581	33739	30896
Lockyer Valley Regional	37802	1680	4151	15207
Logan City	19456	15462	15034	11272
Moreton Bay Regional	0	32	841	1341
Redland City	245	376	338	1483
Scenic Rim Regional	18360	9936	23418	35045
Somerset Regional	5641	16275	11130	9836
Southern Downs Regional	0	2	1	0
Toowoomba Regional	0	0	0	926
Grand Total	111619	98090	136428	114594

Treatment methods used by the Program include:

Aerial bait application by helicopter

Ground bait application by utility terrain vehicle

Ground application of bait by staff using manual hand spreader

Ground application of bait using blower truck

Direct Nest Injection (DNI) of liquid pesticide

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 5

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 5 in relation to the Forestry Industry Development and the Native Timber Advisory Panel, could the Minister outline:

- how many times the board has met in the 2022-23 financial year?
- what recommendations have been made from the meetings?
- the status of such recommendations being implemented?

ANSWER:

- The Native Timber Advisory Panel (the Panel) was established in 2021 as an early commitment of the Government's Native Timber Action Plan.
- The Panel has met on a total of eight occasions:
 - seven times between June 2021 and June 2022; and
 - once during the 2022-23 financial year.
- In October 2022, the Panel Chair provided a report to Minister Furner, which contains the Panel's views on the following matters:
 - the draft revised *Managing a native forest practice accepted development vegetation clearing code (NFP ADVCC)*
 - modelling of timber supply scenarios on private and public land
 - First Nation views on the future
 - climate change drivers and context
 - conservation and biodiversity considerations.
- The report also contained the Panel's views on what a possible future might look like for native forestry in Queensland that balances jobs and the environment.
- The Panel's report and views are currently under active consideration by my department and will inform a policy decision by the Queensland Government.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 6

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to shortages in tick fever vaccine, will the Minister outline:

- What is the average waiting time for vaccine supply at present (July 2023) and what was it in July 2022?
- When was the Minister first advised of any delays to the supply of the tick fever vaccine?
- Has DAF conducted any modelling as to the effects on industry if vaccine supply is delayed?

ANSWER:

- There is currently no wait time for the supply of tick fever vaccine. There was also no wait time for the supply of tick fever vaccine in July 2022.
- The Minister was provided with early advice of the interruption to vaccine production status.
- A short delay in vaccine supply may mean that some producers have to reschedule planned husbandry procedures. No formal modelling has occurred.

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2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 7

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to the Agribusiness Gateway to Industry Schools Project, will the Minister outline by year 2019 to present:

- (a) funding provided
- (b) number of participating schools
- (c) number of program participants?

ANSWER:

Year (Calendar)	\$	No. of schools	No. program participants
2019	155,000	32	*7864
2020	255,000	60	7417
2021	255,000	67	8380
2022	255,000	74	7469
2023	255,000	76	Available at end of scholastic year

In 2019, participation data (*) correlated with enrolments in agriculture related courses.

Figures for the number of program participants in 2023 are not available as data is collected at the end of scholastic year.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 8

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

In regards to the Minister's announcement of 16 December 2022, "Biosecurity Queensland has recruited 10 new officers to bolster Queensland's biosecurity preparedness", will the Minister outline (a) the location each of these new officers are based from, individually and (b) the role of each of these new officers?

ANSWER:

(a) Nine of these ten regional preparedness biosecurity officers have been recruited to positions in Toowoomba, Charleville, Gatton, Dalby, Bundaberg, Townsville, South Johnstone, and two in Cairns. Recruitment is underway to fill the tenth position after a vacancy, and this officer will be based in north or north-western Queensland.

(b) While regionally based, these officers remain mobile and deployable across Queensland to work with a range of diverse stakeholders to ensure the state is prepared for biosecurity emergencies and protect the thousands of jobs supported by the state's agricultural industries. Priority activities include ensuring all stakeholders are aware of their role in preparedness and prevention activities in order that we continue to build Queensland's capacity to address biosecurity risks.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 9

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

Can the Minister please advise what, if any work, QRIDA has undertaken to expand the availability of loans to individuals and businesses in remote and rural communities in Queensland?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) is a specialist administrator of government financial assistance and legislative programs, including loans, grants, rebates, and subsidies, to Queenslanders in every corner of the State.

To best service the rural and regional community, QRIDA currently has over 35% of its workforce regionally-based, with a network of Regional Area Managers working from offices in Bundaberg, Cloncurry, Emerald (with regular visits to Longreach), Innisfail, Kingaroy, Mackay, Rockhampton, Roma, Toowoomba and Townsville, to provide primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profit organisations with the latest local knowledge and expertise on QRIDA's programs and services.

QRIDA maintain a consistent presence in both traditional print media, such as the Queensland Country Life and other industry publications, as well as digital and radio advertising to allow tailored messaging to the needs of each region and industry. Pop-up offices for ongoing loan products, such as the Primary Industry Productivity Enhancement Scheme (PIPES) as well as financial assistance for disaster events are a regular occurrence to better reach producers and industries in the regions directly.

The QRIDA regional team are dedicated to delivering high quality service and value, representing QRIDA at a wide range of producer and industry events and visiting with potential clients on property, travelling the region as demand dictates.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 10

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide (broken down by local government area) data on a) reports of feral cats, pigs and noxious weeds and b) funding for projects to address feral cats, pigs and noxious weeds, and advise on the sufficiency of funding?

ANSWER:

- a) There is no general reporting requirement for persons who have a General Biosecurity Obligation to manage the impact of feral cats, feral pigs or noxious weeds (invasive plants) to report to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries or their Local Government on the presence of feral cats, feral pigs or invasive plants or the management activities that they have taken to manage any feral cats, feral pigs or invasive plants that may be present.

The department works with local governments and other stakeholders to determine where invasive plants may be present in various parts of Queensland.

- b) The Queensland Feral Pest Initiative (QFPI) provides grant funding to regional collaborative projects that address invasive plant or invasive animal priorities as determined by the applying regional organisation or local government. Only a few applications have been for feral cats, with many more applications requesting funds to manage wild dogs, feral pigs and weeds. Since 2015, there have been seven rounds of QFPI with \$27.1 million allocated from the Queensland Government and complemented by a \$14 million investment from the Federal Government for a total of \$41.1 million.

The successful applicants to Round 7 of the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative were recently announced. This round will provide funding for ten recipients that cover a range of targets. The department is soon to enter administrative arrangements with the applicants for the delivery of those projects.

In coming months, Round 8 of the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative will open.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 11

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to page 3 of the SDS, will the Minister inform the Committee of the key agricultural commodities by region, and value of agricultural trends?

ANSWER:

Queensland's agriculture fisheries and forestry sector are central to our economy, regions and communities contributing over \$32 billion and employing over 374,000 good jobs across the supply chain.

In 2022-23 the sector has produced a record valuation of \$23.44 billion according to latest AgTrends data.

This new high for the 2022-23 eclipses the previous record of \$23.37 billion in 2021-22 and follows continued strong investment in agriculture by the Queensland Government. It is 16.28% greater than the average for the past five years.

Beef is our largest sector, with cattle and calves valued at over \$6 billion in 2022-23, and meat processing estimated to be worth almost \$2.8 billion.

Sugarcane and sugar processing reached a combined valuation of almost \$2.5 billion, while the Gross Value of Production (GVP) of raw cotton is valued at \$1.5 billion.

Beyond the farm gate agriculture supported \$4.42 billion value added in first round agriculture manufacturing.

Queensland is a leader in high value agriculture production. In 2021-22, we produced 95% of Australia's sugarcane, 70% of sweetcorn, 65% of sorghum for grain, 57% of macadamias, 53% of capsicums, 48% of mangoes and avocados. We are also home to almost 50% of the Australian cattle herd.

At the Local Government level, Toowoomba produced the largest GVP in 2022-23, valued at almost \$1.36 billion.

Nearby Western Downs had the only other billion-dollar valuation, coming in second for GVP at \$1.11 billion. This was followed by Bundaberg, Central Highlands and Goondiwindi.

By far the fastest growing region in 2022-23 is the Lockyer Valley, the value of its ag sector surging, up nearly 42% on last year's GVP off the back of strong recovery from the 2022 floods.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 12

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to page 3 of the SDS, will the Minister outline for the Committee the work the department has undertaken to support innovative agricultural technology?

ANSWER:

A key priority of Queensland's Digital Economy Strategy is for industries and businesses to excel by providing access and support to adopt digital technologies to help them adapt, grow, compete, and innovate.

The Queensland Government is committed to supporting agribusinesses to digitally transform their operations, allowing them to become more economically and environmentally sustainable, agile, and resilient. Digital technologies are changing production systems, management and governance across agribusiness and food supply chains. The internet of things, artificial intelligence, augmented reality, block chain, big data and advanced robotics are transforming the way we do business, both domestically and globally. Emerging technologies will underpin the security of Queensland's food supply chains and agricultural jobs, ensuring Queensland's world-class products meet current and future market expectations as global trends evolve.

The development of the Queensland AgTech Roadmap is a key initiative identified in the *Our Thriving Digital Future: 2023-2026* Action Plan and ensures agribusinesses remain at the forefront of the digital revolution, ready to capitalise on these opportunities. It was also identified as an action in the *Advance Queensland Roadmap: Innovation for a Future Economy*, to ensure Queensland's existing and emerging priority industries and talent are globally competitive.

The Draft AgTech Roadmap was developed with input from agribusinesses, producers, AgTech developers, education providers, government, and investors, ensuring the accelerated development and adoption of AgTech is supported by those the roadmap serves. The draft roadmap's vision is that Queensland's sustainable agrisystem is a global centre for AgTech. The roadmap outlines five key focus areas with actions to achieve them. Industry and stakeholders support the development of the Queensland AgTech Roadmap and want to be involved in implementing the roadmap's actions.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) is progressing the \$5.5 million Digital Transformation in Agribusiness Initiative to improve traceability, biosecurity and food safety by supporting businesses to adopt digital solutions. The Agribusiness Digital Solutions Grant Program (the Program) is one of the key investments under the initiative, providing grants that are matched with funding by industry organisations to deliver projects that provide industry-wide outcomes.

Round two is now open until 18 August 2023 with grants for up to \$100,000 available for projects which result in the trial and adoption of digital solutions through the supply chain.

Nine industry-backed projects were co-funded through the Program under Round one. As a result of these projects, AgTech is being adopted, awareness created, and agribusinesses are supporting each other to explore options for issues that may have once been viewed as a barrier to adoption.

For example, EastAUSmilk led a project in which 17 dairy businesses invested in new technology that enabled real-time activity monitoring of dairy cattle. The information generated supported early detection and intervention for health conditions and helped inform breeding programs.

Access to a skilled, capable, and confident workforce is also key for digital agriculture to succeed. The Australian Prawn Farmers Association has developed a Prawn Farmers Digital Skills Training Hub. The industry recognised the need to act on the opportunity to create 1,200 new jobs over the next five years through forecasted industry growth. Sixty-eight employees have participated in the co-designed program.

DAF has produced three case study videos for the DAF AgTech web portal to share the stories from these and other projects to connect, engage and inspire other agribusinesses:

- The Queensland Oyster Growers Association has developed and adopted an Internet of Things network of sensors integrated with an industry dashboard to improve harvest timing and food safety quality assurance programs.
- The Australian Macadamia Society has helped growers harness weather stations, sensors, and soil moisture probes that provide real-time localised microclimate monitoring for enhancing production.
- A family-run beef cattle farm at Rolleston has adopted a digital workplace health and safety solution developed by the Central Highlands Regional Resources Use Planning Cooperation to help create efficiencies and save time.

DAF has also invested \$500,000 for the Biosecurity Commons project, to deliver world-class biosecurity modelling capability to help respond to future threats more efficiently. This investment has expanded to a \$1.8 million joint initiative between the Queensland and Federal Governments, the Australian Research Data Commons and four other partners including Griffith University. The project launched on 10 May 2023 and will empower researchers and decision-makers to produce consistent and transparent results without requiring coding experience or high-end IT equipment.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 13

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to page 3 of the SDS, will the Minister update the Committee on the work undertaken regarding engagement with industry over carbon emissions?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Low Emissions Agriculture Roadmap was launched on 21 March 2023. The Roadmap is a ten-year plan to support industries to work towards their own emissions targets and the Queensland Government's zero net emissions economy by 2050 target through five focus pathways: livestock emissions, cropping and horticulture emissions, on-farm energy opportunities, carbon farming and landscape management and regions and supply chains.

The Roadmap was co-designed with government and key industry partners Queensland Farmers' Federation and AgForce Queensland. Co-design and co-ownership of the Roadmap is critical to its long-term success, and I would like to thank all of the producers and industry representatives that helped develop the Roadmap.

Engagement with wider industry on the development of the roadmap occurred throughout the project. Industry reference panel workshops for each of the focus pathways were conducted to refine the recommendations from an independent CSIRO report into tangible strategic and enterprise level actions to help lower greenhouse gas emissions. As part of public consultation, 40 survey responses were received from a wide range of agriculture sector stakeholders including Growcom, Australian Pork, Australian Prawn Farmers Association, Canegrowers, Timber Queensland and Cotton Australia. AgForce, Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) and National Farmers' Federation also sat on the Roadmap Steering Committee which provided oversight and advice on its development.

Many industry organisations have stepped up to the low emissions challenge. The Australian red meat sector has a target to be carbon neutral by 2030 and has invested millions of industry levy funds towards research, development, and leadership capability to achieve this goal. Australian Pork Ltd has also committed to be carbon positive and zero waste by 2025. Others, such as sugarcane, cotton, and poultry, have invested in lifecycle analyses to better understand where real emissions reduction is possible within the production system and supply chain. Officers from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) are working across the various agricultural commodity groups to progress the development of low emissions production practices and technologies, and trial these with producers to evaluate how these work within on-ground production systems.

DAF also helps administer the Queensland Government's flagship Drought and Climate Adaptation Program (DCAP), which brings together the best climate scientists, government and non-government agencies, producers and industry leaders to work on cutting edge research and partnerships. Under DCAP, is the Farm Business Resilience Program, which assists producers to incorporate climate considerations into long-term business planning. While the immediate focus is drought resilience and planning, this strategic assessment of their business and investment planning can also assist producers to start incorporating and planning for low emissions technologies and strategies. Various industry organisations such as Cotton Australia, QFF, Growcom and the Nursery & Garden Industry Queensland are working with DAF to ensure their producers are getting the support they need to access the Farm Business Resilience Program.

In partnership with MLA, the Method to Market project is working with grazing businesses to better understand their enterprise-level carbon emissions profile and on-farm opportunities to reduce and offset carbon emissions whilst maintaining a profitable grazing enterprise. The Method to Market project is investigating the feasibility of pursuing carbon neutral branded beef products and the opportunities and risks of participation in environmental markets, such as carbon markets and the emerging Reef Credits and biodiversity markets. The project also operates the Carbon Neutral Grazing Network which is an online forum for graziers to share their knowledge, experiences and aspirations around low carbon beef and sheep production. Currently the Network boasts over 600 members from across Australia.

Also, in partnership with MLA, Steak and Wood is investigating silvopastoral systems to provide producers with grazing systems that also deliver high quality timber from private native forest and hardwood plantations. This four-year project is seeking to develop guidelines to assist graziers to obtain the appropriate balance of trees and pasture, and will deliver improved beef quality, lower greenhouse gas emissions and an alternative income stream from a sustainably managed timber resource. DAF is also working with Timber Queensland to evaluate biophysical interactions and trade-off between trees and fodder growth, and livestock productivity, in commercial pine silvopastoral systems in northern Queensland.

The Land Restoration Fund (LRF) is Queensland's \$500 million fund investing in high quality carbon farming projects. The LRF invests in land management projects that not only keep carbon in the ground, but also deliver positive impacts or 'co-benefits' for our environment and communities. The LRF Program engagement program works with landholders interested in exploring carbon farming projects to reduce emissions, and through the Carbon Farming Advice Scheme helps landholders access up to \$10,000 worth of professional carbon farming advice from LRF Approved Advisors.

On 13 July 2023, national Agriculture Ministers released a National Statement on Climate Change and Agriculture. This high-level document presents a unified Australian vision on climate change and agriculture matters. It sets an overarching picture of agriculture's climate response, acknowledging and showcasing the work already underway, and affirming the commitment of all Agriculture Ministers in supporting the sector's climate response.

With clear national policy for zero net emissions by 2050 now in place, it is expected that more agricultural commodity groups will make emissions reduction commitments as they better understand the opportunities for change in their production systems. I would particularly like to thank AgForce, the Queensland Farmers' Federation and the National Farmers' Federation who have worked with my department every step of the way, and who are now working to identify and progress key industry-led implementation actions.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 14

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to page 3 of the SDS, will the Minister inform the Committee of how DAF is assisting the Commonwealth when it comes to the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme?

ANSWER:

During the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) worked closely with Queensland Health to facilitate the arrival and on-farm or hotel quarantine of over 5 200 Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS) and Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP) workers, who took up positions within the Queensland agricultural sector.

The PLS and SWP were previously managed by the Pacific Labour Facility and the Department of Education, Skills and Employment respectively. The Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme is the result of the amalgamation of the PLS and SWP, which commenced in late 2021 with the single scheme becoming fully operational in July 2023.

Further changes to the PALM scheme have occurred with the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) now managing the Australian-based operations of the PALM scheme while the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is now responsible for in-country operations.

The establishment of the PALM scheme has necessitated the development of new deed and guideline documentation which defines the agreement between Approved Employers (AEs) and DEWR. These documents were released in July 2023. Consultations for feedback have been ongoing since early 2022. Additionally, a new information management system for the PALM scheme has been developed and this will launch in late July 2023.

The PALM scheme continues to expand with currently almost 14 500 PALM scheme workers in Queensland, more than the combined total of PALM scheme workers in Victoria and New South Wales. More than 95% of these workers are engaged in the agriculture and meat processing sectors, predominantly in regional and remote areas.

Throughout all these changes, DAF continues to have an active role in the operation of the PALM scheme within the Queensland agriculture sector, working with a range of stakeholder groups including (but not limited to) employers, either approved under the PALM scheme or hosting workers via approved labour hire companies; community support organisations; Local Governments; Approved Employers of Australia; PALM scheme workers; and other State and Federal government agencies.

In 2022, DAF appointed two Workplace Liaison Officers (one based in the north and one in the south) that provide a tangible link between workers, AEs, hosting employers and DEWR.

Through this liaison, DAF has assisted in resolving issues relating to the PALM scheme for individuals, communities, and small and large agribusinesses in rural and remote regions. Further, DAF has assisted agribusinesses in accessing the PALM scheme.

Both agencies continue to meet regularly at the State level to support the implementation of the new Deed of Agreement and Guidelines and refer any issues of concern onto the DEWR welfare team for actioning.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

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QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 15

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to page 4 of the SDS, will the Minister provide details to the Committee on the importance of biosecurity arrangements in terms of industry productivity?

ANSWER:

Biosecurity plays a critical role directly and indirectly in industry productivity. Effective biosecurity reduces risk and enables our primary producers to be resilient and prosperous, producing high quality food and fibre for Queensland, Australia, and our major trading partners. It also supports market access, protects our environment, infrastructure and other critical assets, and contributes to protecting our way of life.

Industry productivity is influenced by 'on-farm drivers' such as farm size, commodity type, and management and operational practice. Productivity is also influenced by 'external factors' outside of the control of farmers. These factors include seasonal conditions, technological progress, supply chain issues, government policy, market conditions and access to critical infrastructure. Our commitment to preventing, preparing for, responding to, and managing biosecurity threats plays a major role in supporting industry productivity and viability, and supports viable regional communities.

Australia's cost-sharing arrangement provides industry confidence for dealing with the real and potential economic impacts of pests and diseases. Biosecurity supports our sector to be profitable, competitive, and sustainable. Investment in biosecurity supports Queensland's \$32 billion agri-food supply chain and represents a strong return on investment for Queensland.

The value of Australia's whole biosecurity system has been quantified at approximately \$314 billion, reflecting an average 30:1 return on investment. Biosecurity isn't just about food and fibre, it also protects our environment, infrastructure and other critical assets, which have been valued at \$251.5 billion a year, and \$5.7 trillion over 50 years.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 16

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to page 5 of the SDS, will the Minister update the Committee on what work Queensland Fisheries is undertaking with crab-pot clean ups?

ANSWER:

Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol Officers also conduct regular operations to rid Queensland waterways of abandoned and non-compliant crabbing apparatus.

Over the past 18 months, the Patrol has dedicated 57 days to removing abandoned and non-compliant apparatus resulting in the removal of over 1000 crab pots and traps.

Dedicated clean up days have occurred along Queensland coastline including the Gold Coast, Redlands, Brisbane, Mooloolaba, Noosa, Hervey By, Bundaberg, Gladstone, Yeppoon, Mackay, Airlie Beach, Townsville and Weipa.

At times, marine park officers, parks and wildlife rangers and indigenous sea rangers also assist with these dedicated clean ups. These clean ups complement the routine collection of abandoned crab pots that Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol officers collect during routine patrols.

Recovered equipment is stored for a minimum of 28 days to allow owners to reclaim items before it is responsibly disposed.

Crab pots which are used incorrectly or left in the water when not being used can become lost and may continue to 'ghost fish', trapping other fish and wildlife including turtles, sharks and crocodiles.

As part of its education and extension activities, the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol advises fishers of the following tips to minimise the loss of crab fishing equipment.

- Check crab pots regularly and remove them from the water when they are not being used.
- Ensure crab pots are heavy enough with enough rope attached to the float so they are not lost or pulled under water in strong tidal currents.
- Check gear regularly to avoid it being misplaced during tidal events.
- Ensure crab pots are set below the low tide mark and in a sufficient depth of water at all stages of the tide.

People who see suspected unmarked, lost, or abandoned crabbing apparatus, should record an accurate location (GPS coordinates) of the apparatus and report it to the Fishwatch Hotline on 1800 017 116 or by using the QLD Fishing 2.0 app, which now has more than 100 000 users.

It's important that people do not interfere with another persons' crabbing gear. This is a serious offence and carries an on-the-spot fine of \$1,548 or maximum penalties of up to \$77,400. Stealing crabs or crab pots is also a criminal offence and those caught will be referred to the police.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 17

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to page 5 of the SDS, will the Minister provide details to the Committee on the recent decisions regarding black jewfish?

ANSWER:

Black jewfish are highly valued by the commercial fishery not just for their eating properties, but also for their bladders, which can sell for more than \$500 per kilogram.

Following a significant increase in commercial catch and increased recreational fishing effort in 2018, the Queensland Government introduced a precautionary total allowable commercial catch quota of 20 tonnes and reduced the recreational limit to one per person. Access to black jewfish by all fishers was linked to that commercial catch quota being reached and this occurred it was closed after just a few months in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Little was known about black jewfish, therefore a research project co-funded by Fisheries Research and Development Corporation was undertaken by department scientists to collect key information on their biology. This new biological information was included in the 2022 stock assessment and increased the confidence of the stock assessment results.

On 30 September 2022, the first east coast black jewfish stock assessment estimated spawning biomass is between 56% and 99%, with the indicative (median) at 79%. This demonstrates our track record of delivering world class fisheries science. Consequently, the harvest strategy recommended the total allowable catch be increased to 90 tonnes across all sectors based on the healthy state of the biomass. A total allowable commercial catch of 54 tonnes was set for the east coast inshore fishery for 2023, up from 20 tonnes in 2022.

Due to the high value of the product, it is suspected that there is a black market for the bladders that are then exported through other jurisdictions. The Federal Government is responsible for the regulation and control of exports.

The recreational bag limit has remained at one black jewfish per recreational fisher or two per boat, given concerns on the black market of black jewfish swim bladders. Additionally, the average size of the fish is large, and one fish provides multiple portions for the dinner table.

Fisheries Queensland are working with Northern Territory (NT) Fisheries and the Australian Fisheries Management Authority to identify potential future management actions to cooperate on the management of high-value finfish species such as jewfish. DAF is also monitoring potential to aquaculture this species in future based on new trials planned in the NT.

There is working group support for a spawning closure for black jewfish between November and January, noting reduced recreational fishing effort for this species during summer coincides with the annual barramundi spawning closure. Some working group members supported a four-month spawning closure to align with the peak spawning period of the species more closely.

The black jewfish example demonstrates the successful incorporation of scientific research outcomes to improve our confidence in stock assessments for important fishery stocks in Queensland. It also shows that when the scientific information is available, our harvest strategies work to sustainably increase the limits for commercial fishers and improve angler satisfaction and outcomes for our important recreational fishery sector.

It is estimated that these management changes that are now in place have provides access to an additional \$1.36 m worth of harvestable product to the commercial fishery each year. There has also been improved socio-economic benefits to recreational fishers by decoupling their access from the commercial total allowable catch limit.

Monitoring of this species is ongoing, and the harvest strategy will continue to ensure that stocks across the east coast of Queensland, and in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area remain sustainable for generations to come.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 18

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to page 5 of the SDS, will the Minister inform the Committee of what Queensland Fisheries is doing with Fish Attracting Devices?

ANSWER:

Fish Attracting Devices, commonly referred to as FADs are providing recreational fishers with the opportunity to target pelagic fish species. These purpose-built structures are placed on our offshore waters to attract and aggregate fish in a specific location. They are particularly successful in attracting and aggregating pelagic fish species including mahi mahi, more commonly known as dolphin fish, wahoo, cobia, tuna and billfish.

The FADs Program was established in 2019, as part of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027. Over \$1.57M has now been spent on FADs with charter fishing businesses all enjoying access to quality pelagic fish species, particularly dolphin fish.

The FADs are also improving offshore recreational fishing experiences in Queensland, which also helps to reduce fishing pressure on overfished species such as snapper and pearl perch.

In 2019-2020, DAF designed and installed twenty-five surface FADs in South East Queensland. The response from recreational fishers and charter fishers was instantly positive.

The department's recreational fishing monitoring program reports a reduction in fishing pressure on snapper and pearl perch with 40% of fishers surveyed indicating they would have been targeting these overfished species if not for the FADs providing an alternative fishing experience.

Since 2020, the department has deployed a further four surface FADs off Weipa; twelve sub-surface FADs off Southeast Queensland, three surface FADs off K'gari, and four all-water FADs off Bundaberg.

The all-water FAD off Bundaberg attract fish throughout the entire water column, including pelagic and demersal fish species such as dolphin fish, cobia, trevally, cod, coral trout, and baitfish species, such as yellowtail scad.

There is now a total of 48 different FADs deployed as part of the program. The locations of the FADs were negotiated with other user groups, including the commercial fishing industry, to minimise impacts on access to commercial fishing grounds.

The department is now working in collaboration with the Carpentaria Shire Council to design and deploy of two all-water FADs off Karumba.

Two suitable locations have been identified through consultation and meetings with multiple stakeholders, including the commercial fishing industry and First Nations peoples.

These FADs are expected to be deployed in August 2023.

The investment in FADs has strengthened Queensland's world-class recreational fishing, while providing an opportunity for snapper and pearl perch stocks to rebuild. By encouraging recreational fishers to target species other than snapper and pearl perch, we ensure that future generations enjoy fishing for these iconic Queensland species.

In 2023-24, the department's FAD program will receive \$214,000 resulting in over \$1.607M invested in FADs over the last five years.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 19

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to page 5 of the SDS, will the Minister outline for the Committee what opportunities Queensland's forestry has into the future?

ANSWER:

- The demand for timber in Queensland has never been stronger. Queensland continues to be a popular place to live, work and raise families. A growing population brings greater demand for timber in new buildings, homes, alterations and additions, as well as a wide range of infrastructure.
- Housing challenges in Queensland and key government priorities such as the 2032 Olympics and legacy infrastructure will continue to drive ongoing increased demand for timber.
- There are several opportunities for Queensland's timber industry into the future, not only in meeting increasing demand for timber products in construction, but also in leveraging the environmental, carbon, social, and economic benefits of timber.
- The use of timber plays a crucial role in Queensland's efforts to achieve a zero net emissions economy by 2050 as part of positive climate action. Carbon sequestration, an important factor in addressing climate change, is one of the greater advantages of growing forests for timber.
- Forestry is one of Queensland's oldest government agencies and has enjoyed strong engagement with First Nations peoples. Significant ongoing opportunities exist for First Nations communities in the forest and timber industry, particularly in regional and remote areas of Queensland including north to Cape York.
- The Queensland Government will continue to work with the Federal government to support industry development within rural and regional communities such as value-adding to current products, creating circular economies and carbon sequestration. To this end, I acknowledge the Federal government's recent decision to remove the so-called 'water rule' relating to plantation forestry.
- Queensland's timber supply will be well supplemented by the growing engineered wood product industry. Queensland is home to strong supporting research and technical capabilities, spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Horticulture and Forestry Science Research Facility at Salisbury in suburban Brisbane. The Queensland Government will continue to invest in timber research and development, with a specific focus on improving processing efficiencies and fostering product innovation.

- In 2019, the Queensland Government announced the Native Timber Action Plan to support actions to have an internationally competitive and sustainable native timber industry in Queensland balancing both jobs and the environment.
- While the government made a number of immediate decisions when announcing the Native Timber Action Plan, such as ending native timber production in the South East Queensland Regional Plan area in 2024, a number of final policy decisions are still being considered under the plan.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 20

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to page 18 of the SDS, will the Minister update the Committee on how many people were assisted through QRIDA in the 2022-23 disaster seasons and will QRIDA be prepared through this budget for the 2023-24 disaster season?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) is a long-standing delivery partner of the jointly funded Queensland and Federal Government Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), assisting primary producers, business owners, and not-for-profit organisations.

During the 2022-23 financial year, QRIDA delivered assistance for activated schemes under DRFA, including:

1. Tropical Cyclone Niran and Associated Low Pressure System (25 February – 3 March 2021);
2. Central, Southern and Western Queensland Rainfall and Flooding (10 November – 3 December 2021);
3. Ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth (29 December 2021 – 10 January 2022);
4. South-East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding (22 February – 5 April 2022);
5. Southern Queensland Flooding (6 – 20 May 2022); and
6. Northern and Central Queensland Monsoon and Flooding (20 December 2022 – 30 April 2023).

QRIDA approved assistance for over 6,380 eligible grant and loan applications, totalling more than \$124.78 million, represented by:

- a) 40 Disaster Assistance Loans for over \$5.58 million; and
- b) 6,347 Disaster Assistance and Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants for over \$119.19 million.

The Federal and Queensland Governments provide funding under the DRFA to assist the state in relief and recovery efforts following natural disasters. Funding remains available to eligible applicants for schemes under DRFA until the closure date of the specific event.

QRIDA has a longstanding flexible staffing model in place comprised of permanent and temporary staff to be able to deliver disaster financial assistance as required, which is scalable to align with the incoming volumes of applications for each scheme.

QRIDA is standing ready to respond quickly to any natural disaster events in the 2023-24 disaster season and will continue to review employment arrangements to ensure appropriate staffing resources are available to meet workloads and deliver these much-needed funds to affected Queenslanders.

Questions on notice and responses – *Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water*

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to the capital budget for 2023/24, SDS page 6, will the Minister provide a list of approved projects, including:

- the budget and scope of each project for 2022-23 and 2023-24, reported separately, and
- the scheduled date of completion for each project (reported in table format)?

ANSWER:

Project	Estimated Actual 2022-23 ('000s)	Budget 2023-24 ('000s)	Scope	Scheduled Completion Date
Capital Purchases				
Rookwood Weir ¹	122,064	-	To construct Rookwood Weir and drive new economic employment opportunities for the agricultural industry and community of Central Queensland. In partnership with the Australian Government through the NWGF.	Late 2023
Other	6,043	3,500	Includes improvements made to the state-wide water monitoring network and general plant and equipment requirements.	Ongoing
Total Capital Purchases	128,107	3,500		
Capital Grants				
Big Rocks Weir – planning	1,500	-	Planning and other pre-construction activities for a new conventional concrete weir and saddle	Late 2023

			dam at Big Rocks. Being undertaken by Charters Towers Regional Council. In partnership with the Australian Government through the NWGF.	
Building our Regions (Round 6)	21,000	28,000	Grant program for local government water and sewerage infrastructure projects in regional Queensland.	All BoR projects have been awarded, with funding to be provided to councils until milestones are completed.
Emu Swamp Dam project	725	-	Planning for a proposed 12GL dam on the Severn River near Stanthorpe and a 117km pumped pipeline distribution network. Undertaken by Granite Belt Water Ltd. In partnership with the Australian Government through the NWGF.	Completed. Further consideration through Regional Water Assessment.
Fish-friendly water extraction project: Condamine-Balonne and Border Rivers	3,521	2,396	To place screens on pumps and construct diversion infrastructure to ensure fish are not removed from northern Basin rivers. In partnership with the Australian Government through the Northern Basin Toolkit program.	Mid 2024
Great Artesian Basin Industry Partnership Program	1,596	-	To support rehabilitation of uncapped artesian bores within the Great Artesian Basin. In partnership with industry.	Funded until mid 2024
Improving Great Artesian Basin Drought Resilience	7,093	2,600	To support the rehabilitation of uncapped artesian bores within the Great Artesian Basin. In partnership with the Australian Government through the Improving the Great Artesian Basin Drought Resilience Program.	Funded until mid 2024

Made in Queensland	3,615	32,160	To assist small and medium sized manufacturers to increase international competitiveness, productivity and innovation via the adoption of new technologies, and to generate high-skilled jobs for the future.	Mid 2026
Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program	3,297	16,669	To assist eligible businesses in the Cairns, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Gold Coast, Mackay and Townsville regions. These grants are an opportunity for manufacturers to become more productive, build advanced manufacturing capabilities and create the jobs of the future.	Mid 2025
Mareeba- Dimbulah Channel Modernisation Project	500	-	Contribution to Sunwater for the Mareeba-Dimbulah Water Supply Scheme efficiency improvement project. In partnership with the Australian Government through the NWGF.	Construction complete
Mount Morgan Pipeline	18,150	10,825	To Rockhampton Regional Council to construct a drinking water pipeline from Gracemere to Mount Morgan and necessary water infrastructure upgrades in Gracemere.	Mid 2025
Murray-Darling Basin Regional Economic Diversification Program	1,416		To support economic diversification activities in the Murray Darling Basin for the First Nations Harmony Centre in St George. In partnership with the Australian Government through the NWGF.	Mid 2024
Rookwood Weir (Supporting Infrastructure) ¹	20,391	-	Enhancements required to existing community infrastructure (eg roads and bridges) to service and support the Rookwood Weir project being undertaken by Sunwater. In partnership	Mid 2024

			with the Australian Government through the NWGF	
Southern Downs Drought Resilience Package	1,041	2,779	To Southern Downs Regional Council for upgrades to critical infrastructure to address water security in the Southern Downs region.	Early 2025
Southern Downs smart reticulation and network monitoring	1,700	1,700	To Southern Downs Regional Council to install water monitoring devices across the reticulation network to identify where water is being lost or extracted.	Mid 2026
Toowoomba water treatment to four communities	-	5,250	To Toowoomba Regional Council to construct water treatment and supply works for the communities of Cambooya, Greenmount, Nobby and Clifton.	Early 2027
Warren's Gully System Capacity upgrade project	2,380	1,190	To Lower Burdekin Water to upgrade the pump station and increase the peak flow capacity of the Warren's Gully aquifer recharge and water distribution system. In partnership with the Australian Government through the NWGF.	Mid 2024
Warwick recycled water for agriculture project (stage 3)	336	-	To Southern Downs Regional Council to improve water quality and capacity in the Warwick region by upgrading existing recycled water treatment and chemical systems. In partnership with the Australian Government through the NWGF.	Complete
Total Capital Grants	88,261	103,569		

Notes:

1. The total estimated cost of the project has increased to \$568.9 million due to escalating supplier costs and multiple site inundations caused by high river flows; the increased cost will be funded by Sunwater and appear as an expense in Sunwater's Income Statement.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 2

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1 of the SDS Supporting the Manufacturing Industry in Queensland and in relation to the Manufacturing Ministerial Council, could the Minister outline:

- how many times the council has met in the 2022-23 financial year?
- what recommendations have been outlined from the Ministerial Council meetings?
- what are the status of implementation for such recommendations?

ANSWER:

The Manufacturing Ministerial Council (the council) met twice in the 2022-23 financial year, with meetings held on 15 November 2022 in Brisbane and 22 March 2023 in Townsville.

The Manufacturing Ministerial Council provides strategic and practical advice to the Queensland Government, to assist in developing the manufacturing sector and drive economic, regional and employment growth throughout the State.

The council is an initiative of the Advanced Manufacturing 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan, which is driving development of Queensland's manufacturing industry and assisting manufacturers to increase their competitiveness and transition to new technologies.

The council provides opportunities for the Queensland Government to hear directly from manufacturing industry leaders. Its membership includes key peak industry organisations, the Australian Industry Group, the Business Chamber Queensland, the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union, and the Australian Workers' Union.

A cross-section of manufacturing businesses, including regional manufacturers, are represented to ensure that the Queensland Government hears from manufacturers across the State on the issues that matter.

Advice and recommendations have been provided on key strategic and complex issues which continue to be progressed, including:

- supporting the transition to net zero manufacturing, particularly for small and medium manufacturers
- opportunities arising from the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan
- procurement policy and other large-scale and emerging industry supply chain opportunities, such as manufacturers supplying to the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic games
- supporting women in manufacturing including initiatives for the Queensland Women in Manufacturing Strategy
- Manufacturing Capability Development workshops and events to assist manufacturers in the transition to Industry 4.0
- showcasing Queensland's manufacturing industry.

Groups like the Ministerial Manufacturing Council are an integral part of how the government engages with industry, to ensure our plans and policies for manufacturing are informed by industry leaders.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 3

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 6 of the SDS Staffing, could the Minister provide a breakdown of staffing numbers for each financial year from 2020 to present, by:

- department separately - (i) water, (ii) regional development and (iii) manufacturing
- work base, and
- number of graduate roles?

ANSWER:

The Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water was created on 12 November 2020. Records prior to this date are not comparative to the current department.

The full-time equivalent (FTE) workforce profile across the service delivery areas over the last three financial years is:

Financial Year ending	Grow the Economy	Water Resource Management	Total FTE
30 June 2021	40	535	575
30 June 2022	100	489	589
30 June 2023	115	561	676

Staff across the department can actively work to support all objectives of the department regardless of the allocation to a specific work function or work location.

Of the total FTE, 44% are physically located outside the Brisbane central business district. When including the Brisbane based FTE staff who work in the department's South Region, this percentage increases to more than 55%.

As at 30 June 2023, there were six staff engaged as graduates who rotate across a number of functional areas within the department as part of their development

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 4

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

In regards to page 1 of the SDS and the Burdekin Falls Dam and with reference to the Palaszczuk Government's announcement by the then Water Minister on 20 October 2017 *"Burdekin Hydro plans powering ahead"*, what date will hydroelectricity be delivered on the Burdekin Falls Dam?

ANSWER:

On 28 September 2022, the Queensland Government released its plan for electricity generation and storage through the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan which can be found at www.epw.qld.gov.au/energyandjobsplan.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 5

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 2 of the SDS and the \$11.7 million over 3 years for the development of a “Water for First Nations Strategy”, will the Minister provide:

- (a) a breakdown of this funding
- (b) terms of reference for the strategy
- (c) a timeline for this strategy to be outlined and implemented?

ANSWER:

- (a) In the context of Reframing the Relationship and the Queensland Government’s Path to Treaty, \$11.7 million over three years has been allocated to the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water to support strengthened engagement on country with First Nations peoples on departmental priorities including:
 - developing a First Nations Water Strategy in partnership with First Nations peoples’ representatives
 - delivering on *Water Act 2000* requirements for identifying cultural values and Indigenous water reserves in water plans
- (b) A terms of reference for the First Nations Water Strategy is being developed in partnership with First Nations peoples’ representatives.
- (c) The Strategy is intended to be completed within three years.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 6

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 4 of the SDS, Department's Service Areas: Water resource management services, will the Minister outline how many water users have had a reduction in their allocation since the last water year, reported separately by irrigation scheme?

ANSWER:

Water allocations are legal entitlements to draw water. A water allocation is a property right and cannot be reduced, therefore no water users have had a reduction in their water allocation.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 7

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 4 of the SDS, Percentage of the State's drinking water service providers compliant with drinking water regulatory requirements, can the Minister outline:

- (a) which providers are NOT compliant with requirements?
- (b) what areas in Queensland are affected?

Response

The non-compliances measured for this SDS measure are:

- late audits and/or late audit reports
- late annual reports
- does not have an approved Drinking Water Quality Management Plan

In 2022-23 the following water service providers that did not meet the above requirements - were:

- Aurukun Shire Council - late annual report
- Charters Towers Regional Council - late annual report
- Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council - late annual report
- Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council - late annual report
- Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council - late annual report
- Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council - late annual report; and
- Torres Strait Island Regional Council - late audit

The Queensland Government worked with these providers on their reporting requirements and all these non-compliances have now been addressed.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 8

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 4 of the SDS, Department's Service Areas: Water resource management services, will the Minister outline by (a) date and (b) region, any instances where contaminated drinking water has been identified in Queensland in the 2022-23 financial year?

ANSWER:

Drinking water service providers are regulated under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* and under the *Public Health Act 2005*.

Water service providers are required to report any drinking water incidents where a health guideline value as set in the Australian Drinking Water Quality Guideline has been exceeded, or events where potential contamination may have occurred. The provider is also required to take corrective action.

Exceedances can occur for a variety of reasons including environmental factors such as heavy rain, cyclones, flood events, equipment failures and other causes. For example, during a heavy rain event the source water may have increased sediment load and exceed the turbidity value, and therefore disinfection is less effective. A boiled water alert may be issued in this instance, however it does not necessarily mean the water is contaminated.

The regulatory regime is designed so that any events that may pose a public health risk are identified and addressed quickly to minimise the risk of potentially unsafe water being consumed. In these instances, the water service provider works with the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water, and Queensland Health to determine the appropriate course of action.

Where there is a potential risk to public health, the service provider needs to consider the best option which could result in them issuing a drinking water advisory (boil water alert, do not consume or do not use alerts) to protect the community's health. The drinking water advisory remains in place until the service provider has addressed the issue and water testing demonstrates that water is safe to drink.

In 2022-23 there were 12 instances where advisory notices were issued by the water service provider due to identifying E.Coli in regulated drinking water supply.

After the detection, an investigation needs to be conducted by the service provider to identify the cause of the event and how it can be prevented in the future; a report is then submitted to the department. All these investigation reports were received from water service providers.

A summary of E. coli detections reported to the department during the 2022-23 financial year is tabled below.

Date issued	Region	Advisory Type
19/08/2022	North	Boil Water Alert
28/09/2022	South	Boil Water Alert
14/10/2022	North	Boil Water Alert
21/10/2022	South	Boil Water Alert
28/10/2022	South	Boil Water Alert
2/12/2022	South	Boil Water Alert
18/01/2023	North	Boil Water Alert
18/01/2023	Central	Boil Water Alert
13/02/2023	North	Boil Water Alert
21/02/2023	North	Boil Water Alert
16/03/2023	South	Boil Water Alert
24/03/2023	Central	Boil Water Alert

There have been no detections of heavy metals in drinking water that have resulted in an advisory notice.

Heavy metal concentrations above guideline limits detected in drinking water at Yarrabah were sampled from plumbing associated with buildings, and there were no exceedances detected in water from the water treatment plant, so no advisory notices were required.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 9

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

Can the Minister provide information on any funding for efforts to increase the Water Resource Operational Plan for the Flinders River with a view to increasing the allocation of water and including more small operators?

ANSWER:

The Flinders River is included in the Water Plan (Gulf) 2007. Water reserve volumes are reconsidered when a water plan is reviewed. These reviews incorporate the latest available science including updated climate change modelling, environmental assessment, socioeconomic assessments (including future demand needs) and cultural assessments. The next review of the Water Plan (Gulf) 2007 is due to be completed by 2027, with a review to commence soon.

Water plan reviews include several consultation phases where the community (including small operators) can provide feedback on their water needs.

Funding for plan reviews is provided from the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water's base budget.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 10

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

Can the Minister please advise whether there is any intent to review the pricing structure for Sunwater to ensure it is fit for purpose in relation to mining projects in north-west Queensland?

ANSWER:

Sunwater owns and operates the Julius Dam, and its subsidiary company North West Queensland Water Pipeline Pty Ltd owns the North-West Queensland Water Pipeline.

The water allocations available from the Julius Dam Water Supply Scheme are a high priority product. There are no medium priority water allocations in the dam.

Sunwater is actively working with a variety of proponents in relation to their potential water requirements, with a number of projects requiring water supply, all of which are at varying stages of development.

Discussions regarding how new or augmented water supply infrastructure could be funded, and the cost of water for proponents, are ongoing.

Consistent with other commercial entities, Sunwater will take a position on pricing that is aligned with commercial principles, including risk allocation and the cost of, or on, capital.

Sunwater is also providing advice on water supply and infrastructure opportunities in the North West Minerals Province more generally in collaboration with the Office of the Coordinator-General, the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, the Department of Resources, and the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 11

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1 of the SDS, will the Minister update the committee on staffing of the Queensland Manufacturing Hubs, including the number of permanent positions, current retention rate and if there are any vacancies?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Manufacturing Hubs consist of 17 full time equivalent positions which are all permanently filled; there are no vacancies.

The retention rate in the Manufacturing Hubs across the state is around 85 per cent (out of 17 positions, there has been turnover of staff in three positions in 2022-23).

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 12

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1 of the SDS, will the Minister outline for the committee the services provided to Queensland manufacturers through the Manufacturing Hubs?

ANSWER:

The Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (the department) has an extensive range of programs, grants, and initiatives to support the growth of Queensland's manufacturing industry.

The Advanced Manufacturing 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan provides the framework for government and industry to collaboratively transform Queensland manufacturing, and to support the adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies and practices, including the adoption of robotics, the use of big data as well as introducing lean operational business practices.

The department oversees many programs and initiatives that are supporting Queensland's manufacturing sector, including the Regional Manufacturing Hubs.

The six Regional Manufacturing Hubs operate in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Gladstone, Rockhampton, and the Gold Coast.

The Manufacturing Hubs exist to bolster the capacity and capability of Queensland manufacturers. Each hub provides local manufacturers with expert advice and support, helping existing businesses to grow and expand into new markets, while identifying new business opportunities in expanding sectors including rail and renewables.

The hubs deliver workshops, events and seminars addressing strategies under the Advanced Manufacturing 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan and the Women in Manufacturing Strategy.

While the hubs are located and focused on six locations across Queensland, the services they provide are available across the state.

During the 2022-23 financial year, 130 workshops, events and seminars across Queensland were delivered to uplift the capability of the sector, attracting 3,216 attendees.

Each of the six manufacturing hubs has a dedicated skills and training officer who works with manufacturers to attract, retain and upskill their workforce. They also engage with local schools to promote manufacturing as a positive career choice and provide education on potential career pathways.

The government also supports the manufacturing sector through the \$28.5 million Manufacturing Hubs Grants Program which assists small to medium-sized regional manufacturers to invest in and adopt Industry 4.0 manufacturing capabilities and transition to using advanced manufacturing technologies and techniques.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 13

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 2 of the SDS, will the Minister provide details to the committee on how the government engages with councils to provide essential water and sewerage services, particularly in regional communities?

ANSWER:

The Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water supports councils to deliver essential water and sewerage services through a range of initiatives and functions including:

- Implementing a regulatory framework for water and sewerage service providers, which includes regular engagement, advice, capacity building and, where necessary, compliance action.
- Supporting the regulatory framework, the department hosts a range of educational activities including regional forums on dam safety and drinking water safety, and training workshops for disaster preparedness.
- In the past financial year, related stakeholder engagement activities included around 30 visits to various water service providers across Queensland.
- Undertaking an Urban Water Risk Assessment through funding allocated in the 2023-24 budget. This will increase understanding of drinking water and water security risks for regional and remote communities. The 2-stage assessment project will help the Queensland Government and local governments to forward plan, make informed decisions about where to prioritise efforts, and to identify future needs and areas where that need is the greatest.
- Investing \$70 million in Building our Regions Round 6 grant program which is focused on supporting investment in critical water and sewerage infrastructure for local government providers.
- Supporting local government water service providers to access state funding for their critical water supply and drinking water projects, including for Southern Downs, Toowoomba, Cairns and Mount Morgan water security.
- Investing more than \$5.2 billion since 2015 in bulk water infrastructure projects to secure supplies for regional communities and to support economic growth.
- Planning for future water infrastructure investment to support economic development and urban communities through the Regional Water Assessments being undertaken in the

Tablelands, Burdekin, Bundaberg/Burnett, and Southern/Darling Downs regions, with the Central Queensland assessment yet to commence.

- Supporting and liaising with the nine regional groups of councils, under the Queensland Water Regional Alliance Program (QWRAP). QWRAP is a program designed to support improvements in skills and knowledge sharing, asset management and planning, and capacity building across the regions. The Queensland Government has committed \$2 million per annum, on an ongoing basis, for the QWRAP.
- Coordinating quarterly meetings of the Queensland Indigenous Council Water Operators Network, which aims to empower Aboriginal and Torres strait Islander councils to develop local solutions for their water service operations and share learnings.
- Supporting councils plan for appropriate long term water security through collaborative Urban Water Security Assessments that are undertaken in partnership with councils.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 14

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 4 of the SDS, will the Minister update the committee on meter revalidation as part of its sustainable water management activities?

ANSWER:

Accurate metering is necessary to facilitate transparent and accountable use of water to ensure sustainable water resource management.

Meter revalidation is a critical step requiring water users to demonstrate that they have accurate meters and do not take more water than they are entitled to.

Meter revalidation is a process where meters are checked by a third-party certified person to ensure they are fit for purpose, installed correctly, have not been tampered with and are well maintained. If the meter is not assessed as compliant with the standard, then it needs to be repaired or replaced.

Water entitlement holders are responsible for arranging the revalidation of their water meter.

Meter revalidation ensures that a meter will continue to perform and operate as it should and therefore read within the accuracy requirements of the national metering framework.

The national framework requires revalidation to be undertaken every five years and all states have aligned their metering requirements to this framework.

Consistent with the national framework, meter revalidation was introduced into Queensland's metering requirements in July 2014.

Since that time, meter revalidation has been occurring across Queensland for metered entitlements as per the timeframes stated in Schedule 11 of the Water Regulation 2016.

Over the last nine years, meter revalidations have been successfully completed in water management areas in the Pioneer and Burdekin catchments in North Queensland, and in the Lower Balonne area in South-Western Queensland.

Metered entitlements in parts of the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin, Moreton, Gold Coast and Burnett water plan areas are undergoing meter revalidation this year.

Concern about the sustainability of our water resources is at an all-time high among irrigators, farmers, growers, and the wider community and meter revalidation is a tool to ensure Queensland's water resources are managed fairly and sustainably.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 15

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 2 of the SDS, will the Minister provide details to the committee on the status of the Regional Water Assessment program?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government understands it is important to progress new water infrastructure projects and infrastructure upgrades while at the same time planning for the State's future water needs.

\$9 million has been committed to deliver three regional water assessments in the Southern and Darling Downs; Bundaberg and Burnett; and the Tablelands.

We are now also establishing the more recently announced regional water assessment in the Burdekin region and we are proposing a further one for the Central Queensland region. These two assessments are to be supported by the Australian Government, which has committed \$11.5 million towards strategic water planning in Queensland.

The first three regional water assessments to commence are progressing well, with key stakeholders already providing valuable feedback. On 3 July 2023, the draft Tablelands Regional Water Assessment was released for public consultation, and we are taking on board and incorporating the feedback we have received.

The Bundaberg and Burnett, and the Southern and Darling Downs regional water assessments are also on track, with public consultation on drafts expected to occur in the coming months.

It is anticipated that the Tablelands Regional Water Assessment will be presented to government for consideration by the end of 2023, with the Bundaberg and Burnett, and Southern and Darling Downs regional water assessments anticipated to follow in early 2024.

The Burdekin Regional Water Assessment commenced on 17 May 2023, and we are working towards the Central Queensland Regional Water Assessment commencing later this year. Both assessments are anticipated to be completed in 2025.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 16

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 16 of the Budget Paper 3, will the Minister update the committee on how the works are progressing on the Mount Crosby Weir Bridge, with particular reference to the challenges while working in the river?

ANSWER:

Major construction is underway on the new two-lane Mount Crosby Weir Bridge which will improve flood resilience and connectivity for the growing local community.

The 2023–24 State Budget allocated \$11 million for construction works.

Since major construction began at the start of 2023, the project site has been established, the worksite in the Brisbane River has been dewatered, and a channel has been built to carry water from the heritage listed fish ladder to below the weir, to support downstream flows and aquatic movement.

Piling of the foundations, which began in April 2023, is nearing completion and construction of concrete bridge components is underway. This is a major project milestone.

The project is anticipated to be completed by early 2024.

Every effort is being made to protect and minimise construction impacts on the environment. Seqwater's project team has undertaken extensive planning to minimise impacts while work is underway, including constructing a temporary water channel to support aquatic movement while the work site is active.

Seqwater has advised that instream challenges during construction relate to flooding and weir overtopping and site inundation. Seqwater has worked with the contractor to review the construction sequencing and increase resourcing to minimise delays.

Working in the Brisbane River requires complex management of instream impacts including minimising impacts on fish and managing sediment.

Seqwater is also committed to continuing to work with the relevant agencies to ensure all appropriate environmental conditions are monitored and where required, that appropriate mitigation measures are kept in place.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 17

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 16 of the Budget Paper 3, will the Minister outline how the Toowoomba to Warwick Pipeline will benefit Toowoomba and the Southern Downs?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government understands the importance of investing in water infrastructure to support Queensland communities.

In November 2019, when supplies at Stanthorpe were running low and Leslie Dam at Warwick had fallen to just 4.6 per cent of its full supply volume, the Premier made the commitment to residents in the Southern Downs region that the Queensland Government would not let the community run out of drinking water. The Queensland Government is delivering on that commitment.

In June 2022, the State committed more than \$300 million to deliver the Toowoomba to Warwick Pipeline Project. This investment shows the Queensland Government's commitment to the water security of our regional communities.

The Pipeline will provide a permanent water supply to 3,400 residents in the Toowoomba communities of Cambooya, Greenmount, Nobby, and Clifton along the pipeline route. This will allow Toowoomba Regional Council to avoid the cost of its proposed Southern Regional Pipeline and defer a planned upgrade to its Mount Kynoch Water Treatment Plant.

The Pipeline will provide essential drought contingency supply to 27,000 residents across the Southern Downs. The Pipeline will also increase the capacity for future water carting to Stanthorpe and Killarney in times of severe drought.

As part of the overall Pipeline Project, funding has been provided to the Toowoomba Regional Council to upgrade and relocate its Wivenhoe Pump Station, and to the Southern Downs Regional Council to provide smart monitoring of its reticulation system to identify and reduce water losses.

Construction of the Pipeline will deliver approximately 420 jobs to these local communities, as well as long-term water security, which is critical to jobs, economic growth, and liveability.

Seqwater will build, own, and operate the Toowoomba to Warwick Pipeline, which is expected to be commissioned in early 2027, weather permitting.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 18

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 4 of the SDS, will the Minister inform the committee of the water security outlook for south-east Queensland?

ANSWER:

South East Queensland grid dam levels currently exceed 70 per cent.

South East Queensland has a very high level of supply security thanks to the establishment of the Water Grid during the Millennium Drought, inclusive of the climate resilient supplies from the regularly used Gold Coast Desalination Plant and the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme which is available for drought response.

This is illustrated by the fact that during the recent 2015 to early 2022 drought, which was only one year shorter than the 2001 to 2009 Millennium Drought, it was not necessary for water restrictions to be introduced as the grid only dropped to 55 per cent.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 19

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 2 of the SDS, will the Minister outline for the committee the framework for the review of Water Plans, with particular reference to conversions to volumetric entitlements?

ANSWER:

Queensland's water planning framework provides for the sustainable management of water resources through the allocation and management of water, seeking a balance between the economic, social, cultural and environmental outcomes in water plan areas.

A water plan is based on the best available science which includes hydrologic, ecologic, socioeconomic and cultural assessments as well as extensive consultation.

Water plans are periodically reviewed and replaced using an adaptive management approach to improve resource management over time.

In some water plan areas there are historical area-based licences that allow for an unlimited volume of water to be taken to irrigate a set area of land.

To ensure consistency across the state and alignment with the National Water Initiative, as water plans are reviewed, licences which do not state a volume of water that can be taken, may be amended so that they clearly specify volumetric limits. This has been occurring throughout the state over several years when plans are reviewed. Being able to accurately account for water taken from water courses and aquifers ensures the sustainable and transparent management of the resource.

A water entitlement notice is the primary legislative instrument through which licences are amended to achieve alignment with the updated water plan. Entitlement holders are provided an opportunity to submit and provide evidence on the draft water entitlement notice if they believe the volume they will receive is less than their historic use. All submissions are assessed and considered before finalising the water entitlement notice.

For irrigators, the benefits of volumetric licences include certainty of the maximum volume that may be taken, fair and equitable access to available water from surface water or groundwater, incentivising water use efficiency and may lead to the ability to trade water.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2023 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 20

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 15 of the Budget Paper 3, will the Minister update the committee on Seqwater's dam improvement program?

ANSWER:

Seqwater is progressing planning work for various dam improvement projects within its portfolio. Seqwater has completed 13 dam upgrades including Ewen Maddock Stages 1 and 2, Sideling Creek, Bjelke Petersen, Leslie Harrison Stage 1, Lake Manchester, Borumba Stage 1, Hinze Stage 3, Wyaralong, Maroon, Moogerah Stage 1A, Wappa, Cooloolabin Stage 2 and Bromelton Off-Stream Storage.

Detailed planning for South East Queensland's major water sources is underway – Somerset, Wivenhoe and North Pine Dams. All of Seqwater's dam improvement projects are on track to be completed by 2035 in line with regulatory requirements.

In 2023-24, Seqwater is budgeting \$17.5 million to progress planning work for multiple dam upgrades including North Pine Dam, Lake Macdonald Dam, Somerset Dam and Wivenhoe Dam.

For the Lake Macdonald Dam Improvement Project, Seqwater intends to finalise the preferred option and design by late 2023.

Planning for the Somerset Dam upgrade is progressing, with a Detailed Business Case underway. Somerset and Wivenhoe Dams operate together as a system and the upgrade solution for Somerset will have implications for upgrade requirements at Wivenhoe, which is why the Somerset upgrade is proceeding first. Planning for the Wivenhoe Dam upgrade is also progressing, with a strategic assessment nearly complete and an options analysis to follow.

While planning for the North Pine Dam Improvement Project is underway, opportunities to strengthen sections of the main dam, are also being considered. The Detailed Business Case for the North Pine Dam strengthening works is underway with strengthening options to be designed to integrate with the permanent structural improvement options.

**Answer to question taken on notice at hearing – 2 August
2023**

Estimates Question Taken on Notice

No. 1

Asked on Wednesday, 2 August 2023

MR M BERKMAN ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER, MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING AND MINISTER ASSISTING THE PREMIER ON OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES INFRASTRUCTURE (HON S MILES)

QUESTION:

I understand that the Brisbane City Council has not applied to the federal government for funding for the Toowong to West End Green Bridge or any other bridge aside from the two that are already underway, at Kangaroo Point and Breakfast Creek. Minister, can you please confirm whether BCC has applied to the state government for funding for the Toowong to West End Green Bridge?

ANSWER:

I can confirm the Brisbane City Council has not requested funding from the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (the department) to construct the Toowong to West End Green Bridge.

The department has consulted with the Department of Transport and Main Roads, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Queensland Treasury and the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport and these agencies advise they have not received a request for funding from the Brisbane City Council about this matter.

Documents tabled at hearing – 2 August 2023

Documents tabled at the hearing – 2 August 2023	
1.	Letter from Annastacia Palaszczuk MP to Inala Primary Care dated 30 April 2023, tabled by Michael Hart MP, Member for Burleigh
2.	Briefing Note for Decision – to make a Ministerial Infrastructure (MID) Richlands Residential Care Facility dated 25 January 2023, tabled by Hon Dr Steven Miles MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure
3.	Joint Media Release: Tackling the risks to the reef dated 5 June 2023, tabled by Hon Mark Furner MP, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities
4.	Document dated 31 July 2023 by the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, tabled by Hon Mark Furner MP, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities
5.	Extract from the Report on the Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission to the Great Barrier Reef (Australia) from 21 to 30 March 2022, tabled by Hon Mark Furner MP, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities



Annastacia Palaszczuk

STATE MEMBER FOR INALA



30 April 2021

Ms Tracey Johnson
Chief Executive Officer
Inala Primary Care
64 Wirraway Pde
INALA QLD 4077

Tabled by M Hart, Member for Burleigh at
SDRIC Estimates. 11.11am, 2 August 2023
M. Telford, Acting Committee Secretary

Dear Tracey,

Re: The Health Common, Richlands

It is my pleasure to confirm, as the local member for Inala, the importance of the growth and quality of health and social care services in the region. This region is experiencing some of the most rapid population growth in the Brisbane City Council area. In addition, the proximity of the site you have selected to major rail, bus and road interchanges means it stands to serve the wider suburbs of Brisbane's western corridor.

Health is a major determinant of employability, educational attainment and community participation. The breadth of activities proposed in the precinct span education for those failing in traditional schooling systems through to the best residential care environments for those with permanent disability. In my electorate, we have the highest rates of disability support pensions in Queensland. Your intent to focus on the needs of those with disability will be of great value to those who currently must travel to access support. The willingness of the tenants of the building to share resources, co-design services which really address needs and innovate in the face of rising demand is to be commended.

The precinct will create very significant investment in the region. That will create jobs, something needed in our economy as we recover from COVID. It will also sustain jobs through the social enterprises you propose, the new providers you have attracted, the new education pathways you will build and the better health outcomes which can be achieved by reducing fragmentation in care.

Innovation is often fuelled by seeing a need. I am pleased that after more than a decade of your charity serving this region, you have identified partners willing to address what are very real gaps in provision in novel ways. I look forward to ongoing advice on the progress of the project and seeing the various components of the Master Plan open over the new few years.

Yours sincerely

Annastacia Palaszczuk MP
State Member for Inala

Richlands Plaza Business Centre (Suite 162), 32 Old Progress Road, Richlands QLD 4077
PO Box 75 Inala QLD 4077 Phone: (07) 3737 2100 Email: inlaa@parliament.qld.gov.au

Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development,
Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic
Games Infrastructure

Tabled by: Deputy Premier - S Miles
At: SDRIL Eschmcke Our ref: MBN22/133
Time/date: 11:36am 2/8/23 Date: 3 January 2023
Signature: _____

BRIEFING NOTE FOR DECISION

SUBJECT Decision to make a Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) – Residential Care Facility – Richlands (the facility)

<p>Note: This brief is considered draft until signed.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not approved</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Noted</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Further information required (see comments)</p>	<p>Signed _____ Date: <u>25.1.23</u></p> <p>Hon. Steven Miles MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure</p> <p>Comments:</p>
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ACTION REQUIRED BY There is no specific timeframe required.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that you:

- **approve** the MID under section 38 of the *Planning Act 2016* (the Planning Act) for the facility
- **approve the use of your electronic signature** on the attached Decision Notice (**Attachment 1**), which includes requirements and a summary of how you considered submissions
- **approve the use of your electronic signature** on the attached letter to Smart Capital Group Pty Ltd (SCG) (**Attachment 2**), advising of your decision and enclosing a copy of the Decision Notice
- **approve** the attached draft Gazette Notice (**Attachment 3**) to be published in the Queensland Government Gazette
- **approve the use of your electronic signature** on the attached letters to the Brisbane City Council (the council) (**Attachment 4**), Smart Capital Holdings Pty Ltd (the landowner) (**Attachment 5**) and the Director-General, as Chief Executive of the Planning Act (**Attachment 6**), to be sent post-gazetted, enclosing a copy of the Decision Notice and the published Queensland Government Gazette Notice
- **note** the findings of the attached Assessment Report (**Attachment 7**) prepared by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP).

BACKGROUND

- On 25 February 2022, SCG requested a MID for the facility at 2 Pine Road and 425 Archerfield Road, Richlands.
- The proposed works include the construction of a new five storey residential care facility building, car parking and landscaping.
- The proposal was endorsed for the MID process and SCG has undertaken the required consultation and assessment.

KEY ISSUES

- The MID is for infrastructure identified in Schedule 5, Part 2 of the Planning Regulation 2017, being:
 - Item 15: residential care facilities
- The MID meets the criteria under section 36 of the Planning Act on budgetary commitment, need, environmental assessment and consultation.

- DSDILGP's assessment of key issues and the matters raised in submissions are summarised below:

Land use

- Under the council's planning scheme, the site is within the medium density residential zone.
- The MID proposal as originally lodged included a residential care facility (RCF) comprising 42 two-bedroom units, together with community facilities, educational facilities and health care services.
- The proposed uses, except for the RCF, are considered to be inconsistent with the intent and purpose of the zone / neighbourhood plan and would be better located in nearby neighbourhood and district centres.
- Submissions received during consultation raised concerns that the proposal is not in keeping with small-scale community uses, services and facilities that would normally be expected in a residential area.
- It is recommended the MID be made for the RCF only. SCG have been made aware of this recommendation.

Built Form

- The proposed building height is consistent with the planning scheme and expectations of future development in the area.
 - To manage the interface with the adjoining two-storey townhouses, it is recommended that screen fencing / landscaping be provided along the boundary and upper storey balconies (facing towards existing properties) are designed to include privacy measures.
- Standard requirements have also been included relating to the location and scale of the development, stormwater management, car parking, external works/upgrades, road dedication, design/built form, lighting, waste collection, refuse and plant screening, noise attenuation, construction management, information signage, servicing, geotechnical conditions and acid sulfate soils.
- DSDILGP's Assessment Report (**Attachment 7**) provides a detailed assessment of the proposed MID.

RESULTS OF CONSULTATION

- On 10 May 2022, you sent letters to the council and the landowner advising that you were proposing to make the MID and inviting submissions within 25 business days.
- SCG undertook community consultation for 20 business days between 16 May 2022 and 15 June 2022. The consultation included the placement of signs on the land, an advertisement in a local/regional newspaper and letters to stakeholders including elected representatives, native title party and neighbouring and directly affected landowners.
- 12 submissions were received during the consultation period (**Schedule 1 to Attachment 7**). The submissions were from the council, a healthcare provider and nearby residents.
- The matters raised in submissions have been assessed and are addressed in the requirements and Schedule 2 of the Decision Notice (**Attachment 1**).

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- There are no resource (e.g. staffing) or financial implications associated with this briefing note.

HUMAN RIGHTS

- The human rights relevant to this decision [section 15 – recognition as a person, section 19 – freedom of movement, section 21 – freedom of expression, section 24 – property rights (the right to own property and not be arbitrarily deprived of it), section 27 – cultural rights – generally and section 28 – cultural rights – Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples] have been considered. This decision does not limit those human rights.

Author	Approved by (Exec Dir)	Approved by (A/SP)
Name: Marisa Menin Position: Principal Planner Unit: Development Assessment Tel/Mob No: 3452 7683 Date: 20 December 2022	Name: Steve Conner Position: Executive Director Branch: Development Assessment Division Tel/Mob No: 0401 995 573 Date: 20 December 2022	Name: Christopher Aston Division: Planning Group Tel/Mob No: 3452 7909 Date: 23 December 2022

- Note: This brief is considered draft until signed.**



Hon Steven Miles MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for State Development, Infrastructure,

Local Government and Planning

Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure

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DECISION NOTICE

Ministerial Infrastructure Designation for Residential Care Facility - Richlands

Decision details

Decision:	Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) made under section 38 of the <i>Planning Act 2016</i>
Date of decision:	25 January 2023
Type of infrastructure:	Planning Regulation 2017, Schedule 5, Part 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Item 15: residential care facilities
DSDILGP reference:	MID-0322-0581

Premises details

Street address:	2 Pine Road and 425 Archerfield Road, Richlands, QLD 4077
Real property description:	Lots 73 & 74 on RP49601
Local government area:	Brisbane City Council (the council)

Infrastructure entity details

Infrastructure entity:	Smart Capital Group Pty Ltd
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Requirements

A notice of requirements included in the MID is at **Schedule 1**.

Submissions

A notice of how I have considered submissions is at **Schedule 2**.

Advice to the entity

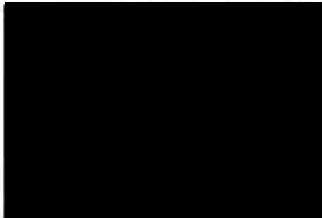
Despite the MID, the entity is responsible for determining what obligations exist under previous development approvals that apply to the premises.

Effective date

As set out in section 9(3) of the *Planning Act 2016*, the MID will take effect from the date the gazette notice for this MID is published in the Queensland Government Gazette.

Duration of MID

The duration of the MID is set out in section 39 of the *Planning Act 2016*.



STEVEN MILES MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
Minister for State Development,
Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure

Enc (2)

Schedule 1 - Notice of requirements included in the MID

Development under the MID is to be carried out in accordance with the requirements included in Table 1.

Table 1 - Requirements	
Plan of designation	
1.	The extent of development is to be carried out generally in accordance with the 'Plan of designation for Residential Care Facility – Richlands, ref. MID-0322-0581 and included at Annexure 1 (Plan of designation).
Stormwater management	
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Prior to the commencement of work, prepare a new or updated Stormwater Management Plan (SMP) for the facility. (b) The new or updated SMP must be certified by a Registered Professional Engineer of Queensland and demonstrate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. a lawful point of discharge for internal site drainage ii. no material worsening to adjoining and downstream properties or the state-controlled road network iii. stormwater quality management measures. (c) Submit a copy of the new or updated SMP to the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP) (infrastructuredesignation@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au). (d) Implement best practice stormwater quantity and quality measures in accordance with the new or updated SMP.
Car parking	
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Prior to commencement of use, provide a minimum of 52 car parking spaces on site, including ten Persons with a Disability (PWD) car parking spaces. (b) All new car parking spaces are to comply with the relevant council or Australian standards.
4.	All new vehicle manoeuvring and servicing areas on-site are to be designed in accordance with the relevant council or Australian standards.
Fencing	
5.	Prior to the commencement of use, provide a solid screen fence of at least 1.8 metres in height, along the western and southern boundaries of the site, as shown on the Plan of designation.
External works/upgrades	
6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Prior to the commencement of use, liaise with the council on the following works external to the site:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. provision of new vehicle crossovers to Pine Road and Kathleen Street ii. removal of redundant vehicle crossovers and reinstatement of kerb and channel to match adjoining kerb and channel along the Pine Road and Archerfield Road site frontages iii. provision of a 1.5m wide footpath for the full site frontage. <p>(b) All external works are to be designed and constructed in accordance with the relevant standards.</p>
Road dedication	
7.	Prior to commencement of use, provide road dedications to the council along the Pine Road, Archerfield Road and Kathleen Street frontages of the site frontage, in accordance with Road Widening Plan, prepared by Brisbane City Council, Concept Design no. RC16107, Issue 1, dated 25 January 2021, and included at Annexure 2 .
Design/built form	
8.	<p>(a) The scale, bulk and massing of the proposal is to be generally in accordance with the SDA Building as shown on 'View from the Medical Building' and 'View from Archerfield Road Entry' (ref. 01 Perspectives), prepared by nettletontribe, dated February 2022, as included at Annexure 3, and include/incorporate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. variation in roof form ii. variation in façade materials, muted tones and detailing iii. well disguised service elements.
Privacy Measures	
9.	Prior to the commencement of use, provide privacy screens to windows and solid balustrades and fixed/sliding privacy screens to balconies on the southern elevation and south-western corner of the facility.
Landscaping	
10.	<p>(a) Prior to commencement of works, prepare a Landscape Concept Plan (LCP).</p> <p>(b) The LCP must be prepared by a suitably qualified person and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. a planting palette that incorporates native and endemic species ii. deep planting along the southern and western boundaries incorporating screen planting in the form of semi-mature vegetation with a minimum 100L bag size iii. podium planting at level 1 iv. raised planters and in ground planting at ground floor level along the access driveway and pedestrian links <p>(c) Submit a copy of the LCP to DSDILGP (infrastructuredesignation@dcdilgp.qld.gov.au).</p>

	(d) Prior to the commencement of use, carry out landscaping in accordance with the LCP.
11.	If construction for the approved development does not commence within 3 months of the demolition of the existing building(s) on site, the site must be grassed/turfed and maintained.
Lighting	
12.	All external lighting must be installed and maintained to accord with Australian standards and shielded to avoid light spill to surrounding residential properties.
Waste collection	
13.	<p>(a) Prior to the commencement of use, liaise with the council and prepare a waste management strategy.</p> <p>(b) The waste management strategy must include and/or address the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. number and size of bins ii. collection times iii. frequency of collection. <p>(c) Submit a copy of the waste management strategy to DSDILGP (infrastructuredesignation@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au).</p> <p>(d) Undertake waste management for the facility in accordance with the waste management strategy.</p>
Refuse and plant screening	
14.	Refuse storage bins, and all new plant, equipment and water tanks, are to be stored behind fencing or screened from view from public roads and public open space.
Noise Attenuation	
15.	Prior to the commencement of use, provide acoustically treated enclosures around external mechanical plant equipment.
Construction management	
16.	<p>(a) Prior to commencement of work, a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) must be prepared and submitted to DSDILGP (infrastructuredesignation@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au). The CEMP must include/address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan that addresses the erosion risk and surface water run-off ii. dust mitigation methods (such as use of water to suppress potential dust) and air quality management measures iii. hours of construction, vibration, and construction noise (including the default noise standards), in accordance with the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> (s440R & 440S)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. waste control and management, in conjunction with a waste management plan if deemed necessary v. disposal and management of hazardous materials and regulated waste, including removal by a suitably licenced contractor, where deemed necessary vi. chemical and fuel used during construction stored in bunded areas vii. access locations for and management of construction vehicle traffic (any construction parking off-site is subject to engagement with Council and relevant landowners) viii. appropriate machine hygiene measures ix. proximity of works to easements and services and any necessary design measures, additional analysis or safe work methods x. other required permits from the council, easement holders or utility providers xi. maintenance of safe pedestrian and cyclist access/movement around the site xii. complaint resolution procedures, including who to contact and a record of how complaints have been addressed xiii. a construction communication plan including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ how neighbouring properties will be advised of construction and demolition activities for each stage ▪ how the appropriate extent of neighbouring properties to be notified will be determined ▪ timeframes for notification of construction activities, with notification to occur prior to works commencing. <p>(b) Construction of the development is to be undertaken in accordance with the CEMP.</p>
Information signage	
17.	<p>(a) Prior to the commencement of work, place an information sign on the site.</p> <p>(b) The information sign is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. include the following details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a link to where a copy of the MID decision and CEMP can be viewed on the DSDILGP website; and ▪ the name, postal and/or email address and a contact telephone number for the key contact/principal contractor ii. be positioned on the Pine Road and Kathleen Street site frontages and be clearly visible for a pedestrian iii. be non-illuminated and maintained at all times during construction.
Servicing	
18.	<p>(a) Prior to the commencement of work, confirm the adequacy, capability and location of the existing infrastructure (water, sewer, electricity and</p>

	<p>telecommunications) to service the proposed development.</p> <p>(b) If reasonably required, the infrastructure should be upgraded to cater for the proposed development.</p> <p>(c) Connect the development to all relevant urban infrastructure.</p>
Geotechnical conditions	
19.	As part of detailed design, undertake a geotechnical investigation that confirms the ground conditions and informs building requirements.
Acid sulfate soils	
20.	If potential or actual acid sulfate soil (ASS) is identified during construction, an ASS investigation is to be carried out and managed in accordance with an ASS management plan.

Schedule 2 – Notice of how submissions were considered

Submissions received during Minister's consultation

On 10 May 2022, I gave a notice to the council and the landowner advising that I was proposing to make the MID and inviting final submissions within 25 business days.

Public consultation actions were also conducted by the entity inviting submissions between 16 May 2022 and 15 June 2022.

I received 12 submissions during this period. The submissions were from the council, a private healthcare provider and local residents.

A summary of how I have considered submissions is provided in the table below.

Matters raised	Response
Inconsistency with planning intent	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern has been raised in relation to establishing centre activities on residential zoned land. There is a perception that this will undermine the viability of other centres and other suitably zoned sites. Perceived conflict of the proposal with the overall outcomes of the Richlands – Wacol Neighbourhood Plan and the Richlands –Wacol corridor neighbourhood plan (NPP-002). Perceived inconsistency with the SEQ Regional Plan 2017, relating to housing diversity. 	<p>Following consultation on the MID, the proponent confirmed they would pursue only the residential care facility component of the proposal.</p> <p>The proposal, for specialist disability accommodation, will provide housing diversity within the community.</p> <p>This aligns with the SEQ Regional Plan, that has identified housing diversity as critical to support changing lifestyles, demographics and housing preferences.</p> <p>The Brisbane City Plan 2014 has also responded to this need, with a specific outcome to ensure Brisbane's housing is diverse in type and form, offering choice to different household types and income levels and individuals with specific housing needs. The City Plan seeks to achieve this outcome by providing housing that supports ageing in place and assisted living within each neighbourhood and across the City.</p> <p>The residential care facility is consistent with the Richlands-Wacol Corridor Neighbourhood Plan as it provides a residential outcome of a height and scale acceptable within a medium density residential area.</p>
Five storey development other than residential should not be located on this site.	<p>The MID is for a five-storey residential care development only, which is consistent with the City Plan intent for the medium density residential zone.</p> <p>All development that was not of a residential nature has been removed from the proposal.</p>
Concern around the proposed designation being appropriate for consideration by the Minister, based on whether there is or will be a need for the efficient and	<p>Following consultation on the MID, the proponent confirmed they would pursue only the residential care facility component of the proposal.</p> <p>The proposal, for specialist disability accommodation, will provide housing diversity within the community.</p>

Matters raised	Response
timely supply of the infrastructure.	
Landscaping and amenity	
The proposed development envelopes are extensive and offer limited opportunity for landscaping.	<p>Following consultation on the MID, the proponent confirmed they would pursue only the residential care facility component of the proposal.</p> <p>The MID requires the preparation and implementation of a landscape concept plan that is to incorporate deep planting along the southern and western boundaries of the site and planting at the ground floor and podium level of the development.</p>
The proposal should be amended to incorporate increased setbacks and building separation of the upper levels along the southern boundary	<p>The setbacks of the residential care development to neighbouring residential uses are generally consistent with the council's residential code requirements.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, the MID requires a range of measures be included in the proposal to address amenity impacts, including the provision of fencing along the southern and western site boundaries fencing, privacy screens and solid balustrades on balconies and privacy screens to windows along the southern building elevation, and deep planting along the boundary.</p>
External works	
Appropriate streetscape and roadwork upgrades be undertaken as part of the development.	The MID requires the applicant to liaise with the council on the provision of a road widening and construction of footpaths along the road frontages of the site.
Traffic	
Increased traffic congestion within the area as well as the proposed access along Archerfield Road next to residential development.	<p>As the MID is for the residential care component of the development only, the extent of traffic generation associated with the development has significantly reduced.</p> <p>The proposed Archerfield Road access point is not included as part of the MID.</p>
Construction impacts	
A detailed draft construction management plan should be provided as part of the MID application to ensure construction will be appropriately managed within reasonable expectations	The MID requires the preparation and implementation of a construction management plan.

Infrastructure	
The safety and efficiency of all existing infrastructure networks should be protected and maintained.	The MID requires the applicant to confirm the adequacy of and connect to existing service infrastructure and where required, upgrade the infrastructure to cater for the proposed development.
Mechanisms should be incorporated into any designation regarding the issuing of an Infrastructure Charges Notice.	Correspondence has previously been provided to the council addressing matters relating to the council's ability to impose infrastructure charges for developments that are afforded a designation.

Annexure 1 to Schedule 1 – Plan of designation



Legend

-  Built form envelope comprising buildings and structures not exceeding 5 storeys and undercroft car parking
-  Ground level car parking and vehicular circulation
-  Open space, landscaping, pedestrian circulation and associated structures
-  Vehicular ingress/egress
-  1.8m high acoustic fence
-  Designation boundary

Title: Plan of designation for Residential Care Facility - Richlands
Address: 2 Pine Road & 425 Archerfield Road, Richlands, QLD, 4077
Reference: MID-0322-0581



Approximate scale (metres)
 0 15 30



Annexure 2 to Schedule 1 – Road dedication

Annexure 3 to Schedule 1 – Landscaping

01 Perspectives

View from Archerfield Road Entry



VIEW FROM ARCHFIELD ROAD ENTRY

01 Perspectives

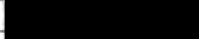
View from Medical Building



VIEW FROM MEDICAL BUILDING





Tabled by: H. Furner - Min for Ag
At: SONIC Estimates
Time/date: 3:45pm 2/8/2023
Signature: 

The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP
Minister for the Environment and Water

Joint media release: Tackling the risks to the reef

5 June 2023

The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for the Environment and Water

Senator Nita Green, Special Envoy for the Great Barrier Reef and Senator for Queensland

The Hon Mark Furner, Queensland Minister for Agricultural Industry, Development and Fisheries

The Hon Leanne Linard, Queensland Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef

The Albanese and Palaszczuk Labor Governments have announced critical funding to better protect threatened species that call the Great Barrier Reef home.

Over \$160 million will be delivered to significantly reduce net fishing and other high risk fishing activities impacting the Reef. This includes ensuring the Great Barrier Reef is gillnet free by mid-2027.

Destructive gillnet fishing injures and kills threatened dugongs, turtles, dolphins and protected shark species.

As part of these reforms, the Albanese Government will request the Palaszczuk Government to declare threatened hammerhead sharks a no-take species for commercial fishers within Queensland waters.

The funding will also be used to:

- Create net-free zones including in the northern third of the Great Barrier Reef and parts of the Gulf of Carpentaria to better protect threatened species that move between the Reef and the Gulf.
- Accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy

- Introduce legislation to mandate the use of independent data validation on commercial fishing vessels to ensure we balance sustainable fisheries with protecting threatened species.

The Federal Labor government has wasted no time acting to protect our precious reef, including legislating more ambitious emissions reduction targets and investing more than \$1.2 billion to protect and restore the Great Barrier Reef.

Quotes attributable to the Federal Minister for the Environment and Water, Tanya Plibersek:

“The Great Barrier Reef is one the most beautiful places on Earth. We want to better protect it for our kids and grandkids.

“We know one of the most immediate threats to health of Reef is unsustainable fishing practices. It causes damage throughout the Reef, as threatened marine life like dugongs, turtles and dolphins are caught in nets and drown.

“The removal of gillnets in net-free zones on the Reef has already helped boost local fish populations. We want to see this happen right across the Reef.”

Quotes attributable to Queensland Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries, Mark Furner:

“This is an investment in the future of the reef and a more sustainable future for its commercial fishing industry.

“Protecting good jobs in the fishing industry is crucial for the livelihoods of thousands of Queenslanders who depend on the state’s seafood supply chain.

“By transitioning to more sustainable fishing practices and taking measures to maintain fish stocks, we can ensure the long-term viability of good jobs in the fishing industry for our children and our grandchildren.”

Quotes attributable to Queensland Minister for Environment, Leanne Linard:

“The implementation of these new protections underscores the commitment of the Palaszczuk Government to ensure the reef’s long-term survival.

“The Great Barrier Reef is home to thousands of species and holds immense cultural significance to Indigenous people of the Queensland coast and the Torres Strait, who have maintained a deep connection with these waters for thousands of years.

“In keeping with its recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage site, the reef must be protected, not just for Queenslanders, but for all the people of the world.”

Quotes attributable to Special Envoy to the Great Barrier Reef, Senator Nita Green:

“Establishing a ‘Net-free North’ is an important step required to protect the Great Barrier Reef as an ecosystem and an economic asset.

“The Reef supports 64,000 jobs including thousands in regional Queensland. By working together with partners in science, tourism, agriculture and Traditional Owners we can continue to protect the Great Barrier Reef for generations to come.”

More information:

- All hammerhead sharks will be made a no-take species for commercial fishers in all Queensland waters, noting they are already no-take for recreational fishers.
- Buy-out and remove all N2 and N4 licences by 31 December 2023.
- Buy-out, remove and condition a limited number of N1 licences by 31 December 2023.
- Phase out the remaining limited N1 licences to make the Reef gillnet free by 30 June 2027.
- With residual funds, protect the Reef from other forms of commercial fishing through a voluntary commercial fishing licence buy-out.
- Accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy by introducing legislation to mandate independent data validation.
- Establish a “net-free north” from Cape Bedford to the tip of Cape York.
- Establish additional gillnet free zones in the Gulf of Carpentaria and other locations of high ecological value.

45 COM

WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add
Paris, 31 July 2023
Original: English

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION
OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

Extended forty-fifth session
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
10-25 September 2023

Item 7B of the Provisional Agenda:
State of conservation of properties inscribed
on the of World Heritage List

Summary

This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. The World Heritage Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. The full reports of Reactive Monitoring missions requested by the World Heritage Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/45COM/documents>

All previous state of conservation reports will be available through the World Heritage State of conservation Information System at the following Web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

Decision required: The World Heritage Committee may wish to adopt the draft Decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

Note: For each section, the reports are presented in the English alphabetical order of States Parties

ASIA AND PACIFIC

13. Great Barrier Reef (Australia) (N 154)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (vii)(viii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/154/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/154/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

March 2012: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2022: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Changes to oceanic waters
- Ground water pollution
- Marine transport infrastructure (Coastal development, including development of ports, shipping lane impacts, grounding of ships)
- Non-renewable energy facilities (Liquefied Natural Gas facilities)
- Marine transport infrastructure (ports)
- Other climate change impacts
- Storms
- Surface water pollution
- Temperature change
- Fisheries

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/154/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/154/documents/>, providing the following information:

- The property has experienced a period of recovery since 2019, following consecutive bleaching events in recent years. For important habitats, such as coral reefs, islands, mangroves, coastal wetlands and seagrasses, conditions have either improved or remained stable;
- Coral heat stress and agricultural runoff were recorded as lower than previous years and there have been fewer impacts from cyclones;
- On 20 December 2021, an updated Reef 2050 Plan was released that provides a pathway for accelerated action to conserve the property and commitments to address climate change, land-based run-off, coastal development and aspects of human use of the property;
- Significant funding has been made available to manage and conserve the property, including through the Reef Trust Partnership;
- The property's water quality has seen improvements towards the 2025 targets. These have been achieved through setting minimum practice standards, building the capacity of land managers to

reduce nutrient and sediment runoff, and catchment restoration to reduce soil erosion and land degradation;

- Fishery management is improving, with the implementation of the Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy (QSFS) 2017–2027;
- Crown-of-Thorns Starfish (COTS) continue to pressure the property's central and southern regions but advances in understanding the dynamics of COTS outbreaks, combined with improved detection and culling, allow to better suppress outbreaks and improve coral protection across the property;
- Involvement of Traditional Owners in the management of the property has been strengthened.

From 21 to 30 March 2022, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN undertook a joint Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess whether the revised Reef 2050 Plan addresses the threat posed to the property by climate change and determines a pathway for accelerated actions in other areas affecting the conservation of the property. The mission considered information provided by the State Party along with inputs from stakeholders, including civil society. Based on the information at the time, the mission concluded that the property met the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The mission report is available at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/154/documents/> On 15 March 2022, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party conveying third party concerns regarding reclamation associated with the ports of Gladstone and Townsville and requesting verification of the information. On 26 July 2022, the State Party replied that the potential impacts of the ports on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property have been carefully considered and each project is subject to stringent approval conditions, designed to avoid and mitigate the impacts.

Since the mission, the State Party provided the following updates:

On 13 September 2022, the State Party submitted a report including the following highlights:

- The property recorded the highest level of hard coral cover in the northern and central regions in 36 years of monitoring; a new target of 43% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 has been agreed; funding has been made available to scale up work on coastal restoration to achieve water quality improvements; participation of Traditional Owners in the management of the property has been increased; fisheries management has been improved; and new techniques to restore coral reef habitat have been developed.
- AUS\$ 32.6 million has been committed to accelerate climate science and emissions modelling.

On 10 March 2023, the State Party sent an update on the state of conservation of the property, including the following highlights:

- The 2022-23 austral summer season has concluded without a significant coral bleaching event;
- The State Party signed its first Climate Change Act in 2022 that legislates a 43% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions on 2005 levels by 2030. The target is set as a floor, not a ceiling. The Climate Change Authority is now required by law to provide independent advice and annual updates on progress towards limiting temperature increases to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The legislation requires the government to consider the advice of the Authority prior to setting future Nationally Determined Contributions;
- In February 2023, the State Party rejected the Central Queensland Coal Mine due to its potential impacts to the OUV of the property;
- The 2020 Reef Water Quality Report Card show continued progress toward meeting the 2025 water quality targets;
- The 2022 annual Statewide Landcover and Trees Study (SLATS) reported that overall agricultural clearing in 2019-20 had fallen nearly 40% from the previous year;
- The State Party withdrew funding commitments towards the construction of the Hells Gate Dam and the Urannah Dam due to their threat to water quality;
- Regulated minimum practice agricultural standards for grazing, sugarcane and banana production are fully implemented across all priority reef catchments as of December 2022, next phase regulations will bring farming practices in the Burnett Mary region in line with other regions and the compliance programme will be doubled;

- Additional water quality investments have been committed that, along with existing investments, provide funding certainty until 2030 to scale up land restoration and water quality improvements. These include, among others, an AUS\$253 million budget uplift for the property's lead management agency, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority; AUS\$ 262.5 million for land acquisitions and capital work to improve vegetation management; and a minimum of AUS\$ 100 million for reef protection and restoration with Traditional Owners;
- A major evaluation of water quality investments in the Reef and a water quality prioritisation process was finalized in December 2022 that will inform the next phase of the property's water quality investments;
- Review of the Reef Scientific Consensus Statement and Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan is underway and will be finalized in 2025;
- An additional AUS\$ 62.7 million has been committed to accelerate implementation of the QSFS and strengthen independent data validation on high-risk fisheries;
- The Traditional Owner Implementation Plan 2022 was launched by Reef Traditional Owners on 15 November 2022.

On 6 June 2023, the State Party provided further information, including commitments to:

- Enact with immediate effect a major shift in its water quality programs, including detailed deliverables and timetable, aimed at achieving the 2025 water quality targets and significantly reduce pollutant discharge into the property by 2030;
- Immediately make the hammerhead shark a "no-take" species, establish a net free zone in northern third of the property, finalize implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy, introduce legislation to mandate the use of independent data validation on all commercial fishing vessels by 31 December 2023, make the property entirely gillnet free by 30 June 2027, and achieve the target maximum economic yield (60% biomass) by 31 December 2027;
- Set more ambitious emissions reduction targets in alignment with efforts to limit global temperature increase to 1.5°C and update the Reef 2050 Plan to reflect new commitments and the new legislative framework.

On 5 and 19 April 2023, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN received information on progress about the management of the property from civil society, including WWF-Australia, the Australian Marine Conservation Society, and Earth Justice.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission concluded that the OUV of the property is considerably impacted by climate factors, and that the resilience of the property to recover from climate change impacts is significantly compromised, in particular due to degraded water quality and fisheries. The mission concluded that the property's management frameworks are lacking clear climate targets and implementation measures which are urgent to protect the OUV of the property, and that measures are not fully implemented in relation to water quality and fisheries. The mission set out 10 priority recommendations to be implemented with the utmost urgency, and 12 additional recommendations to further strengthen the resilience of the property. If implemented rapidly, the mission considered these recommendations could greatly improve the conservation of the property's OUV for future generations.

Since the Reactive Monitoring mission took place, the State Party has made significant progress to respond to the threat of climate change to the property and has made a series of strong commitments to reduce pressures on the OUV of the property from degraded water quality and fisheries, including significant renewed financial commitment until 2030.

The 2020 Reef Water Quality Report Card shows progress toward achieving the 2025 water quality targets. However, this progress remains slow, and significant reductions in the levels of sediment and dissolved inorganic nitrogen to meet the 2025 targets remain to be achieved. The cancellation of the Urannah and Hells Gate dam projects is welcomed, given their likely negative impacts to water quality in the property. Other in-progress dam developments and future ones need to show clear alignment with water quality improvement for the Reef and require to be assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

The most recent information regarding the State Party's commitment on water quality measures is welcomed and indicates a further stepping up of commitments to implementation, although also confirms the level of challenge that has been present in achieving the originally proposed water quality targets. These commitments will need to be fully implemented, and the anticipated new targets for 2025-2030 will need to be sufficiently ambitious to reverse the negative trends in water quality and underpin a consistent pathway to recovery.

Agricultural clearing in 2019-20 is reported to have fallen nearly 40% from the previous year, yet still significant clearing activities remain. The remaining native vegetation across the property's catchments needs further protection, including by strengthening permits for areas of high conservation value. The State Party committed to expand implementation of 2018 land clearing legislation and strengthen protection of remnant and high value conservation areas by July 2024. It is critical that the evaluation of the property's past water quality investments and water quality prioritization process will result in swift and drastic action toward implementing the mission priority recommendations related to water quality.

The sequence of bleaching events in 2016, 2017, 2019 and 2022, the latter of which occurred during a La Niña year for the first time, are of utmost concern. The scale and frequency of the bleaching events have contributed to the status of a number of species that represent key attributes of the property's OUV being assessed as poor or very poor, including coral and seagrasses, dugong and bony fish. However, the reef is reported to have experienced some recovery following the last bleaching event, and populations of a number of key species are reported as increasing or stable in some instances.

In September 2022, the State Party adopted its first Climate Change Act that legislated a 43% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions on 2005 levels by 2030, which is set as a minimum level of ambition, with scope to further reduce emissions levels. As part of its latest updates, the State Party committed to set more ambitious emissions reduction targets in alignment with efforts to limit global temperature increase to 1.5°C. The new law requires the Climate Change Authority to provide independent advice and annual updates to the government of Australia on how future targets will help limit temperature increases to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The legislation requires the government to consider the advice of the Authority prior to setting future Nationally Determined Contributions.

A budget of AUS\$ 32.6 million (ca. USD 22 million) has been committed to increase climate science and the Australian Academy of Science has been commissioned to identify priority interventions to protect the reef under plausible climate scenarios in collaboration with the Reef 2050 Independent Expert Panel and the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee. It is essential that the Reef 2050 Plan is strengthened to limit the impacts of climate change on the property as a result of this process, noting the recommendation of the mission to commit to reduce greenhouse emissions consistent with the efforts required to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels. Measures should further include effective carbon credit schemes which benefit the property and further deployment of climate adaptation mechanisms through continued research and increased financial resources.

Overfishing, bycatch, and damage to habitats associated with fishing activity further reduce the resilience of the property and the mission recommended to complete implementation of the QSFS, including adequate seasonal closures for spawning fish species as well as compliance with limits for fishing below the thresholds defined in the strategy and phase out all destructive gillnet fisheries. The State Party has since committed to complete implementation of the QSFS by 31 December 2023, including finalizing all harvest strategies with defined quotas for all key species and achieve the target maximum economic yield (MEY; 60% biomass) by 31 December 2027. Large mesh gillnets are reported to be already prohibited in 38% of the property. The State Party further committed to establish a complete net free zone in the Northern third of the property and strengthen protection for threatened species by 31 December 2023, and ensure the whole of the property is gillnet free by 30 June 2027. Threatened hammerhead sharks are expected to be made "no take" for commercial fisheries with immediate effect. The State Party should be requested to ensure that the commitment to phase out all destructive gillnet fishing is effectively implemented, and the target MEY is achieved, in line with the mission recommendations.

Overall, the commitments the State Party has made to conserve the OUV of the property, in particular in response to the findings of the mission, and the initial actions taken to implement the mission's recommendations should be noted with appreciation. However, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that the property remains under serious threat and urgent and sustained action to implement the priority recommendations of the mission is essential in order to improve the long-term resilience of the property. A drastic shift in programmes to attain the 2025 water quality targets for fine sediment and dissolved inorganic nitrogen, and the effective implementation of the QSFS and a full phase out of gillnet

fisheries in the property are of the highest priority. Measures to ensure carbon credit schemes deliver net benefits to the property and that adaptation mechanisms are deployed at the scale required to avoid loss of OUV should also be deployed.

Based on the progress achieved since the mission, and the range of new, but still recent commitments that have been made and actions initiated, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that it would be appropriate to re-evaluate whether the property meets the criteria for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, for consideration, as relevant, at the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee.

Finally, it is recognized that no one State Party alone can address the threat of climate change, and that international action is needed by all States Parties as noted in the relevant past decisions of the Committee.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.13


The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **41 COM 7** and **44 COM 7B.90** adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions, respectively,*
3. *Notes with utmost concern that the property has suffered from four mass coral bleaching events since 2016, as a result of climate change, including an unprecedented event in 2022 occurring for the first time in a traditionally cooler La Niña period, and appreciates the efforts to control the Crown-of-Thorn Starfish outbreaks;*
4. *Notes with appreciation the State Party's initial commencement of the implementation of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations, and requests the State Party to extend these efforts to fully implement all the recommendations of the mission, including, as a matter of utmost priority:*
 - a) *Identify priority areas of grazing land for gully repairs and associated restoration and remediation activities, and significantly scale up restoration activities,*
 - b) *Require proposed and in-progress dam developments to show clear alignment with water quality improvement for the Great Barrier Reef (GBR),*
 - c) *Increase significantly the scale and pace of adoption, monitoring and enforcement of best management practice in sugarcane and banana farming,*
 - d) *Prioritise the protection of remnant native vegetation across the GBR catchments,*
 - e) *Ensure Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) water quality targets, are sufficient and implemented to reverse the negative trend in water quality,*
 - f) *Review and strengthen the Reef 2050 Plan to include clear government commitments to reduce greenhouse emissions consistent with the efforts required to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, to limit the impacts of climate change on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) (recommended by the March 2022 mission to be achieved by 31 December 2022),*
 - g) *Ensure that the carbon and water quality related credit schemes being deployed in the GBR catchments deliver overall net benefits to the OUV of the property,*
 - h) *Continue support for scientific research and increase financial resources to enable deployment of climate adaptation mechanisms,*
 - i) *Accelerate the implementation of the Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy,*

- j) Phase out destructive gillnet fishing in the property;
5. Welcomes the State Party's significantly increased actions in addressing climate change since the Reactive Monitoring mission, including through newly adopted legislation introducing progressive reduction targets for carbon emissions, and for the State Party's additional commitment to set successively more ambitious emission reduction targets in alignment with efforts to limit global temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial times, and also requests the State Party to revise and strengthen the Reef 2050 Plan accordingly and in alignment with the mission recommendations;
 6. Notes with serious concern the slow progress in achieving the water quality targets, in particular for fine sediment and dissolved inorganic nitrogen and also welcomes the State Party's commitment to enact, with immediate effect, a major shift in its water quality programmes with the aim to achieve the 2025 water quality targets and to finalize the revision of the WQIP and set new 2025-2030 water quality targets by June 2025, and further requests the State Party to ensure that the commitments are fully implemented and that the anticipated 2025-2030 water quality targets are sufficiently ambitious to reverse the negative trend in water quality;
 7. Further welcomes the cancellation of the Urannah and Hells Gate dam projects due to their potential impact on the OUV of the property, and requests furthermore the State Party to require proposed and in-progress dam developments to show clear alignment with water quality improvement for the property as a condition for approval under relevant legislation, and ensure all proposed projects are assessed in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
 8. Welcomes furthermore the State Party's commitments to, by December 2023, complete the implementation of the Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy, establish a net free zone in the northern third of the property, introduce new legislation requiring independent data validation in commercial fisheries, and to ensure the property is gillnet free by June 2027 and the target maximum economic yield (60% biomass) is achieved by December 2027, and requests moreover the State Party to effectively implement the phase out of all gillnet fisheries in the property and ensure compliance with the mandatory independent data validation of vessels operating in the property introduced by the new legislation;
 9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, a progress report on the implementation of the commitments made, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session in 2024, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

14. The Sundarbans (Bangladesh) (N 798)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

Tabled by: M Furrer Minister for A
At: SDG 11 Estimates
Time/date: 3 45pm 21/8/2023
Signature: 

**REPORT ON THE JOINT WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE/IUCN
REACTIVE MONITORING MISSION
TO THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (AUSTRALIA)
FROM 21 TO 30 MARCH 2022**



© Ko Hon Chiu Vincent

Eleanor Carter (IUCN) and Hans Thulstrup (UNESCO)

WQIP, in large part due to the sheer scale of the challenge. While significant efforts have been made to reduce run-off of nitrates and phosphates from farms and to implement land-based restoration (including gully¹ repairs and associated remediation activities) to reduce sedimentation, there is a need to secure a greater reduction of these pollutants in the next three years than has been achieved since 2009 to achieve the WQIP targets. The proposed development of the new large-scale Hells Gate and Urannah dams in the region also threatens to counteract progress, both through their construction and the anticipated subsequent industrial and agricultural expansion plans.

Considering the above, the mission team concludes that the property is faced with major threats that could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics, and therefore meets the criteria for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, as set out in paragraph 180 b) of the *Operational Guidelines*. Therefore, **the mission recommends that the Great Barrier Reef be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

The mission team acknowledges that the threat of climate change is a global threat requiring a global solution and underlines that it is critically important for all States Parties to undertake the most ambitious, rapid and sustained implementation of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

However, the mission team considers that a rapid implementation of the recommendations detailed in this report could drastically improve the State Party's ability to ensure and advance the conservation of the property and its OUV for future generations. The mission team therefore encourages the State Party to take full advantage of the property's extraordinary access to state-of-the-art managerial and scientific expertise, institutional and political support, and access to significant financial resources in order to implement these recommendations.

Finally, the mission team recognizes the excellent and outstanding work of numerous stakeholders actively endeavouring to effectively manage and conserve the GBR. The mission team witnessed exceptional levels of pride and commitment towards the GBR amongst wide segments of society. It is hoped that the energy and commitment towards GBR protection that was exemplified during the mission can be utilized effectively to accelerate the protection and effective management of this important national and global asset.

Based on the above, the mission team has the recommendations below. They consist of **10 priority recommendations** that require to be implemented with the upmost urgency and **12 additional recommendations** that would further strengthen the resilience of the property in the face of climate change.

High Priority Recommendations

Recommendation P1: Identify priority areas of grazing land for gully repairs and associated restoration and remediation activities, and significantly scale up activities in these priority areas through extensive mobilization of the necessary engineers and associated personnel, equipment and materials, alongside key engagement with relevant farmers and grazers to achieve existing WQIP targets.

Recommendation P2: Require proposed and in-progress dam developments to show clear alignment with water quality improvement for the GBR as a condition for approval under relevant legislation, including mandatory compliance with the 2018 [Reef 2050 Net Benefit Policy](#), industrial [guidelines](#) associated with the [reef protection regulations](#), and climate-ready design considerations to be assessed by appropriate environmental impact assessment, which also includes consideration of indirect impacts such as associated agricultural expansion. Mechanisms

¹ A gully is a ravine formed by the action of water.

and innovations should also be developed and implemented to address existing dam sediment impacts (from build-up and release) in priority catchments vulnerable to sedimentation (as prioritized for management in the WQIP).

Recommendation P3: Increase significantly the scale and pace of adoption, monitoring and enforcement of best management practice in sugarcane and banana farming to achieve WQIP targets; and advance the upscaling of land restoration activities, including where feasible the purchase and/or buy-back of land areas for restoration and return to wetland or riparian ecosystems.

Recommendation P4: Prioritise the protection of remnant native vegetation across the GBR catchments through strengthened native vegetation clauses under existing laws, and through improved identification and enforcement of permissible activities in areas of high conservation value (HCV) forests and woodlands. This would include review of sites where clearing is currently allowed without permits (Category X under the Vegetation Management Act 1999) and updating zonation and corresponding permits which limit conversion of HCV areas. Such advances should also incorporate full consideration of traditional owner land management principles.

Recommendation P5: Ensure Reef 2050 WQIP water quality targets, to be updated in 2023, and actions implemented through the WQIP are sufficient to ensure the OUV of the property is not further adversely impacted by low water quality, including through hitherto overlooked sources of poor water quality, such as dams, emerging crop industries and marine debris, with associated legislative compliance strengthened.

Recommendation P6: Review and strengthen, by 31 December 2022, the Reef 2050 Plan to include clear government commitments to reduce greenhouse emissions consistent with the efforts required to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Commitments should harness the State Party's significant capabilities to take accelerated action on this issue, at all possible levels, and should include timebound, actionable and practical steps to limit the impacts of climate change on the OUV of the property, including the following actions:

- a) Continue to comprehensively assess and report on the impact of climate change on the property, and to include in this process an evaluation of the impact of the implementation of national climate change and emissions reduction strategies, based on best available science and information.
- b) Develop and implement ambitious emissions reductions activities consistent with limiting the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, taking into account the above assessments and the additional 'climate related activities' concerning emissions reductions as recommended by the Independent Expert Panel (IEP), in its letter to the State Party in March 2022.
- c) Establish a formal mechanism for the IEP and Reef Advisory Committees to advise the State Party on the required carbon emissions reductions to attain the goals set out in the Reef 2050 Plan.

Recommendation P7: Ensure that the carbon and water quality related credit schemes being deployed in the GBR catchments deliver overall net benefits to the OUV of the property and are monitored and regulated by the relevant agencies through fully transparent, science-driven and evidence-based management to that end.

Recommendation P8: Continue support for scientific research and increase financial resources to enable deployment of climate adaptation mechanisms developed through this research at the required scale to be effective in mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts across the property, including initiatives undertaken by AIMS (SeaSim and associated research activities), as

well as wider restoration initiatives that directly support the rehabilitation of habitat and concurrent carbon sequestration.

Recommendation P9: Accelerate the implementation of the Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy, including the finalization of harvest strategies for all key species as a priority, and ensure management mechanisms outlined in the Strategy (including temporary closures of some fisheries areas to enable recovery and promote restocking, particularly in areas of spawning aggregations) are implemented in collaboration with the fisheries industry to achieve the target maximum economic yield (60% biomass) by 2027.

Recommendation P10: Phase out destructive gill net fishing in the property through appropriate mechanisms, including purchasing, and/or retiring all remaining industrial (N4) gill-net licences; retiring of other gill-net fisheries (N2) and the establishment of net-free sub-zones in areas of high conservation value for protected species.

Other Recommendations

Recommendation O1: Undertake the comprehensive and transparent scientific assessments recommended in the [Maintenance Dredging Strategy](#), ensuring the results are made publicly available regarding the impact of maintenance dredge spoil dumping within the GBR, to guide and inform enhanced measures to minimize the impact of dredge spoil on the property.

Recommendation O2: Effectively enforce the [Waste Reduction and Recycling \(Plastic Items\) Amendment Act](#), including by developing partnerships with existing civil society initiatives focused at: (a) reducing primary production and consumer purchase of single-use plastics goods; (b) repurposing of waste; (c) reimagining of products to transition to renewable materials (e.g., packaging); (d) recycling; and (e) proactive removal of debris.

Recommendation O3: Prioritize delivery of new and sufficient research into the impacts of emerging replacement crops in former cane-farming regions (e.g., macadamia nut, avocado, etc.) to ensure impact on GBR is well understood and set minimum practice standards in accordance with WQIP targets based on this research, to promote industry best-practice within GBR catchment.

Recommendation O4: Explore additional mechanisms for sediment capture in tributaries, including scientific and engineering assessments and innovations to establish whether sediment capture is possible at scale, and deployable without impact to the relevant ecological systems of the creeks, rivers and tributaries connected to the GBR.

Recommendation O5: Optimize the opportunity presented by the revision and update of the GBRMPA Blueprint for Resilience (that is scheduled for 2022) to more clearly demonstrate the actions that will be undertaken within the GBR to increase awareness of climate mitigation needs and present clear and actionable activities to reduce climate impacts on the OUV of the property.

Recommendation O6: At the State level (Queensland government), ensure the 1.5°C target is supported by legislation, and clear, actionable steps to achieve this target are set within the state's existing climate related strategies and plans; with associated opportunities optimized to become a 'climate action hub' for the GBR.

Recommendation O7: Develop and implement appropriate mandatory independent mechanisms for discard and bycatch monitoring, such as e-monitoring via vessel-based cameras, on all gill-net and trawl vessels within the property.

Recommendation O8: Advance research into effective bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) and accelerate the adoption and proactive installation of devices across relevant fisheries,

including the production of associated regulatory requirements to ensure the adoption is legislated.

Recommendation O9: Finalize and implement protected species management strategies for all formally recognized protected species (or suites of protected species in particular biomes), which should include appropriate regulations to effectively prohibit catch or harvest of these protected species.

Recommendation O10: Undertake a comprehensive review of current coral harvesting practices (given the escalation of this activity in recent years) to appropriately assess the extent and sustainability of this fishery in order to identify and implement appropriate fishery management measures and restrictions, where required.

Recommendation O11: Ensure that all relevant stakeholders review the Traditional Owner Implementation Plan and provide input to enable its finalization, adoption and roll out in the coming months and years in order to improve engagement and representation of TOs in co-planning and co-management that is vital for the future of the property and the region.

Recommendation O12: Provide clarity on overarching targets (and associated indicators) related to each goal of the Reef 2050 Plan, and ensure transparent mechanisms are established to monitor progress towards the targets, alongside an improved communications strategy for informing and engaging the relevant stakeholders, organizations, agencies and institutions through the upcoming revision of the Reef 2050 Plan.

Clarifying Statement



Hon Steven Miles MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for State Development, Infrastructure,

Local Government and Planning

Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure

Our ref: OUT23/3191

7 AUG 2023

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Dear Mr Whiting

I write to provide clarification of evidence provided in the transcript of the Budget Estimates 2023-24.

On page 42 of the transcript

Dr MILES: I do not have that, but I can advise the member that the quarry native title working group has met three times. It was established by the department of agriculture. Representatives of the local government division have attended all of the meetings. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority has now been invited to participate and will attend future meetings. That is in response to your earlier question about this matter. It is clearly a priority, but I cannot predict when it will be resolved.

The Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning has advised me that the department has attended (2) of the meetings – not 'all' (3) meetings.

On page 43 of the transcript

Dr MILES: Coming back to the other couple of matters that we undertook to find some more information on, I am advised that the Office of the Independent Assessor's costs related to the case the member tabled were \$24,062.50. I am also advised that there are no other matters referred to QCAT. That is in response to the member's question about how many had been.

In 2022-23, the cost was \$24,062.50. I have been advised by the Office of the Independent Assessor (the office) that in 2021-22 an additional cost of \$8,800 was attributed to the case by the office.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact Ms Katharine Wright, Chief of Staff in my office, by email at [REDACTED] or by telephone on [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely,

STEVEN MILES MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning
Minister Assisting the Premier on
Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure