

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1167

asked on Thursday, 28 August 2008

MS JONES ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER AND MINISTER ASSISTING THE PREMIER IN NORTH QUEENSLAND (MR WALLACE)—

QUESTION:

Will he provide details of funding by his department towards the management of land in Brisbane Forest Park and in the D'Aguilar Range?

ANSWER:

The matter raised by the Honourable Member falls in the portfolio responsibilities of the Honourable Andrew McNamara MP, Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation. I have referred your Question to Minister McNamara.

Author	[Author's Name, Position]	Approved	[Name, Position - ED/RSD/GM]
Business Unit	[Business Unit]	Business Unit	[Business Unit]
Telephone	[Number]	Date	[Date approved]

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QUESTION:

MS JONES asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Water and Minister Assisting The Premier in North Queensland (Mr Wallace). Mr Wallace referred the Question on Notice to the Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation (Mr McNamara)—

Will he provide details of funding by his department towards the management of land in Brisbane Forest Park and the D'Aguilar Range?

ANSWER:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the only State Government agency responsible for the management of Brisbane Forest Park. It should be noted however that the Mt Coot-tha section falls within the legislative provisions of the *Brisbane Forest Park Act 1977* but is managed by the Brisbane City Council.

Brisbane Forest Park (BFP) covers an area of approximately 28,500 hectares on the edge of Brisbane.

The 2007-08 budget will be quoted for the D'Aguilar Range which includes BFP, Walkabout Creek Wildlife Centre and the EPA Visitor Information Centre located at The Gap.

Funding for the park can be separated into three key areas, operating, labour and special funding.

Operating funding includes all costs associated with day-to-day management of the park estate, including facility maintenance, fire and pest management and the running costs of equipment and vehicles.

In the 2007-08 financial year, my Agency allocated over \$850,000 towards these costs.

Over 30 rangers are employed to support the management of this park, at a total annual labour cost of \$1.7 million.

In addition to this annual budget allocation, funding is also provided for special initiatives. In the 2007-08 financial year, I am pleased to report that over \$780,000 in funding was allocated to initiatives including:

- The installation and connection of water saving rainwater tanks to BFP headquarters and information centre toilets and wildlife centre, capable of storing 275,000 litres (saving over 20,000 litres of water per week).

- Linking the BFP Headquarters and Information Centre to mains water supply for drinking water and fire hydrants.
- Upgrade of electricity supply and installation of air conditioning to the BFP Headquarters.
- Installation of a 4,080 watt solar system at the BFP Information Centre (predicted to save over 7,000 kilowatts of energy per year).
- Improving park protection through upgrading of fencing and gates.
- Improvement of strategic fire breaks adjacent to communities.
- Natural disaster relief funding for critical repairs to storm damaged public access roads and fire breaks.

A grand total in excess of \$3,330,000 was spent on managing park operations on the D'Aguilar Range in the 2006-07 financial year.

I would also like to advise that in addition to this funding, my Agency operates and coordinates several active and vibrant volunteer programmes across BFP. These programmes require substantial time and commitment from EPA staff, but the rewards are immeasurable. The volunteers at BFP perform in excess of 1,400 person hours of work each year towards educational and community awareness activities and the protection of the park environment.

I had the pleasure of joining a team of volunteers pulling weeds in recent weeks, and the support that they provide greatly supports the work being delivered and funded by the EPA.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS ANSWER IS IN ADDITION TO THE ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE NO. 1167 OF 2008 TABLED ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2008.