



Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee

2012-13 Budget Estimates

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Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee 2012

Volume of Additional Information

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Answers to Questions on Notice

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1

asked on 28 September 2012

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister explain efforts made to rehabilitate abandoned mines and mitigate potential environmental risks at these sites?

ANSWER:

This government is committed to the long-term rehabilitation of abandoned mine sites throughout Queensland, and has appointed an Assistant Minister for Natural Resources and Mines—Ms Lisa France MP—specifically tasked to ensure that these works are given the highest priority.

Queensland has more than 15,000 abandoned mine sites, of which about 3500 are on public land, such as national parks, state forests, timber reserves and other state-owned land, including unallocated state-owned land.

A site is classed as an abandoned or orphaned mine when the mining lease under which it was created no longer exists, and there are no longer any legal avenues to require the company that created the disturbance to carry out remediation.

The Abandoned Mine Lands Program aims to assess and reduce risks arising from these mines.

Issues are addressed on a risk-prioritised basis, with the program's highest priority assigned to human safety and health.

Key rehabilitation actions include works to address health and safety risks; contaminated seepage interception and pump-back; water treatment; diversion works; and historic mining infrastructure management.

Mine sites requiring major remediation works include Mount Morgan, the Herberton Tailings Dam, Jumna, Mount Oxide, Croydon and Horn Island.

In cases where there is a public hazard and unsafe living environment, the state has assumed responsibility for abandoned mine issues.

The program is also responsible for delivery on the government's election commitment to implement the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry recommendations relating to abandoned mines.

The cost of implementing the recommendations relating to abandoned mines is expected to be \$0.5 million per year for two years, as a dedicated abandoned mines database is developed and landholder information on abandoned mines on their properties is sought. This will be funded from the priority projects allocation.

2.

A four-year works program has been developed prioritising works for implementation, with a number of projects now underway including additional water treatment at Mount Morgan, and water surveys at Herberton.

Historic coal mining subsidence at Collingwood Park is managed through the Collingwood Park State Guarantee, which is legislated under Part 10AA, section 381 of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*.

The Charters Towers and Gympie shaft repair programs progressively make safe the many historic gold mining shafts in these cities. These programs are funded under the state-wide Abandoned Mine Lands Program.

The shaft repair program addresses historic shafts located on all types of land tenure. In addition, there is often little indication of the exact location of a shaft from the surface until it collapses. Shaft location requires the collation of many pieces of incomplete historic mining information.

Work is carried out on a risk-prioritised basis, with reports of possible subsidence as the highest priority. Common causes of subsidence are historic shafts, old wells, trenches, dumps and unconsolidated fill.

All reports of subsidence are treated as potentially dangerous. Upon notification, the first priority is to inspect the site and to brief the land holder and/or residents. Fencing is then used to make the site safe while site information is gathered and subsequent repair works are carried out.

In 2011–12 in Charters Towers, 22 reported subsidences were investigated with 12 identified as being unrelated to historic mining. The remaining ten historic shafts were made safe (capped) under the program.

In Gympie, 21 subsidence-related incidents were investigated. Six of these required concrete capping of shafts, with the remaining 15 subsidences excavated and backfilled.

The specialist expertise of the shaft repair teams is also utilised to address other historic mine shaft issues across the state, such as at Herberton, Croydon, Kilkivan, the Ipswich area, and the opal fields at Winton and Opalton.

The average cost of rehabilitation is \$20,000 to \$25,000. Costs include the location of the shaft, shaft capping or filling, remediation of any buildings impacted, and the condition of properties prior to rehabilitation works.

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines is working closely with government agencies, the landholder and other stakeholders on the rehabilitation of the Mount Oxide historic mine site.

Approximately \$2.4 million has been spent to date on remediation works, monitoring, mitigation of potential livestock impacts and stream clean up.

Works completed in 2012 include earthworks to further separate clean water flows from contaminated materials, and fencing and lining of recently constructed catch dams.

Downstream contamination recorded over the 2011–12 wet season was reduced. This has been attributed to reduced infiltration of runoff into mineralised stockpiles as a positive outcome of previous stockpile capping and runoff diversion works, and also to significantly less rainfall over the last wet season.

3.

Further works to install solar pump systems will be completed prior to the start of the 2012–13 wet season.

Rehabilitation at the historic Mount Morgan mine is a complex long-term project. The current site activities are directed towards reducing contaminated seepage from the site, and lowering the water level in the open-cut pit, thereby minimising the risk of spills of contaminated water into the Dee River.

The primary mechanism to reduce the volume of water contained in the open-cut pit is a lime dosing water treatment plant.

A further \$0.477 million upgrade (Stage 3) to improve operational efficiency and reliability of the plant is expected to be completed in February 2013.

Additional water treatment initiatives undertaken in 2011–12 were:

- \$0.74 million for additional portable water treatment for a quick reduction of the water level in the open-cut pit;
- \$0.23 million for the hire of an evaporator to provide an additional 0.4 megalitres per day water removal capacity, which has proven successful and has now been purchased and installed; and
- \$0.33 million for the purchase and installation of two pumps and pontoons, to improve the security of key site water management systems affected in the 2010–11 wet season. Both pumps were commissioned in August 2012.

Initiatives in train or planned for the near future are:

- \$1.2 million for the purchase of three new high-volume evaporators that will boost water removal capacity from the open-cut pit by an additional 1.5 megalitres per day. The evaporators are expected to be operational in late October 2012.
- \$0.8 million for the replacement of the ageing main electrical substation on the Mount Morgan mine site. The replacement of this unit will ensure reliability of power supply for operation of the site water management systems.
- \$0.2 million to begin progressive diversions of rainfall from the mineralised areas of the mine site. The diversions will minimise fresh water inflow into the open-cut pit, reducing long-term water treatment requirements and costs.

These measures will nearly double the current water treatment capacity on site and result in reduced pit levels.

Rehabilitation of the abandoned Horn Island mine site includes the encapsulation and re-vegetation of the tailings dam, rehabilitation of the mine processing areas, and partial capping of the low-grade ore stockpile and waste rock dump.

The 2011–12 works program incorporated the lowering of the process water dam maximum level by 1.6 metres, the installation of a solar powered seepage pump-back system below the dam wall, repairs to the capping of the tailings dam and road upgrades.

Future rehabilitation works required include the removal and clean up of the process water dam, and the completion of site rehabilitation to achieve long-term site stability and acceptable impacts.

The state-managed land is subject to a 1999 native title ruling, which requires that the land be handed back to the traditional owners as soon as rehabilitation of the mine is completed.

4.

The process to hand back one of the land parcels (Lot 48 on SP142707) to the traditional owners has commenced and is expected to be completed in March 2013.

Acidic seepage from the Herberton tailings dam flows into the Wild River, a tributary of the Herbert River, just upstream of an historic weir which can affect water quality in the Wild River at times of low flow at the end of the dry season.

The water in the weir is treated annually with lime to raise the pH, when the pH of the water is at its lowest.

The Herberton tailings dam is not the only source of low quality water along the Wild River, which is also affected by natural mineralisation in the area and widespread historic tin mining.

Following multi-agency discussions, it has been agreed that the following investigative and impact management actions would be carried out:

- a survey of landholder water usage and stream water quality in the first 12 km downstream;
- placement of signs along the stream bank warning of the risks of low-quality water; and
- discussions with the Tablelands Regional Council on the best way to manage public awareness of possible low water quality in the Wild River.

These actions have been timed to coincide with a geophysical survey of the tailings dam area that is currently underway. The survey will check for possible groundwater contamination plumes.

As can be seen, this government is actively addressing abandoned mines legacy issues.

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 2

asked on 28 September 2012

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

QUESTION:

Can the Minister explain the importance of the State's mine safety regime and describe his actions to protect the safety of all Queensland mine workers?

ANSWER:

Queensland has a world-class mine safety and health record when measured in terms of the number and frequency of accidents causing injury to workers.

While recognised as having one of the best legislative frameworks and safest mining industries in the world, we are still not satisfied and will not be until we achieve Zero Harm.

In the fiscal year 2011–12, unfortunately there was one fatal incident in the metalliferous and quarry sector when a 21-year-old quarry worker was pulled into a conveyor belt at a quarry near Moranbah in the Central Highlands.

While still enjoying a world-class performance last fiscal year, on preliminary numbers, a disturbing trend was witnessed with a significant increase in the lost-time injury frequency rate in underground coal mines, up from 4.2 to 6.8. There were also increases in the other industry sectors with the exception of quarries. This increase is a concern and will be addressed by an increased vigilance on behalf of the Mines Inspectorate and by direct interface with mine operators.

For the previous years, since the commencement of the new legislation in 1999, we have enjoyed a decreasing trend across the board in accident statistics.

Queensland's mining and quarrying safety and health legislation provides the men and women who work in these industries with the legislative framework necessary to protect their safety and health.

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines is responsible for enforcing compliance with the legislation and monitoring the safety and health of all workers in these industries. This is one of the most critical tasks in this state as there is nothing more important than the safety and health of all workers.

There are currently 46 mines inspectors in the Safety and Health area of the department who carry out audits and inspections across these industries.

These audits and inspections continue to be conducted in accordance with identified risks and inspectors' work programs, ensuring that resources are concentrated on high-risk activities, while recognising good performance.

2.

The department uses promotion, education and advice to encourage compliance with the provisions of legislation. Where these methods do not result in compliance, the use of formal notices, directions and other enforcement methods, including prosecution, are utilised.

Departmental inspectorates have documented enforcement policies to provide a simple and clear framework to ensure transparent, consistent, accountable and proportional application.

In cases of serious injury or death, the incident is always thoroughly investigated. If the investigation reveals that there is a case to answer, the investigation report is considered by a compliance review committee.

Eliminating fatalities and serious accidents is directly related to effectively managing risk and associated hazards at mines and quarries.

This was further highlighted following a review of the number of fatalities at Queensland metalliferous mine sites where it was found that small mines and quarries were over-represented, and the fatality rate was increasing.

Legislation was introduced, effective 1 September 2010, that required mines of 10 workers or less (excluding opal and gemstone mines) to develop and implement a health and safety management system (HSMS).

To ensure this legislative change would have minimal impact on the small mine and quarrying sector in meeting its new obligations, the inspectorate has successfully conducted training and mentoring to assist operations.

There were approximately 300 small mines and quarries across Queensland affected by the legislation change. A total of 26 workshops were conducted by the inspectorate.

There was a positive response from industry for the small mines initiative and all operations targeted have developed and implemented a HSMS.

The program has led to a further initiative, in conjunction with the Institute of Quarrying Australia, involving the publication of a number of safety booklets aimed at workers and supervisors in the extractive industry.

The first publication, *Slope Stability*, was well received by that industry. A second publication, *Traffic Management*, has been published, and a third publication, *Working Safely with Electricity*, will be published by December 2012.

These initiatives and other actions taken by the Mines Inspectorate should assist in lowering the fatality rate in Queensland's extractive industry over coming years.

Under the proposed legislation amendments due in 2013, it will also be a requirement for opal and gemstone mines to develop and implement a HSMS.

To assist the opal and gemstone miners meet their future obligations, the inspectorate has developed the *Opal and Gemstone Mines* campaign.

In conjunction with industry leaders, the Mines Inspectorate has successfully developed and refined resources and training material suitable for training opal and gemstone miners to develop and implement a HSMS to suit the size and complexity of their operation.

Up to 31 December 2011, a total of 22 one-day workshops, attended by 723 miners, were undertaken throughout regional Queensland.

The workshops have proved so successful that an additional 12 workshops, involving 337 attendees, have been undertaken in the year to date. A further five to seven workshop will be held this calendar year to complete the program

In addition, the Safety in Mines Testing and Research Station, known in the industry as Simtars, delivers a range of scientific, engineering, training and certification services, and undertakes mine safety and health research aimed at preventing accidents, fatalities, disasters and occupational illness in the mining industry.

Simtars is a resource available to the government, mining companies, mining equipment manufacturers, suppliers to the mining industry and unions.

Simtars supports the Safety and Health Inspectorate through the provision of expert advice and assistance with accident investigations, and with attendance at mine emergencies.

The delivery of services on a commercial basis has underwritten the development of Simtars from its inception 26 years ago to the internationally acclaimed mine safety resource it is today.

There are no statutory or regulatory requirements for the mining industry to use Simtars, so it has to compete with other service providers on a commercial basis, while ensuring government-funded research and community service obligations are met.

Simtars has designed a range of mine gas monitoring systems used to prevent mine fires and explosions. These systems are essential to ensure the safety of underground coal mine workers. They are used extensively throughout Australia and, in recognition of their best-of-breed status, have been exported to the United States, China, India and New Zealand. Mines with these systems can access expert support provided by Simtars around the clock.

In addition, Simtars has an emergency response team and a mobile mine gas analysis system on call 24/7 to respond rapidly to a mine fire or explosion—most recently responding to the disaster at Pike River Coal Mine in New Zealand and the mine heating at Carborough Downs in Central Queensland this year.

As an accredited registered training organisation, Simtars has provided nationally recognised training and qualifications in mine safety to thousands of mine workers in Australia and overseas. In addition to local workers, it is currently training teams of engineers from Coal India Limited in mine safety management.

Simtars is also an accredited certification body under national and international certification schemes implemented to ensure electrical equipment used in underground mines is safe. Simtars' certification activities are conducted in Australia and overseas.

Research projects continue to be conducted by Simtars to provide practical solutions to safety and health issues in the mining industry. Over 40 research projects have been conducted over the last 26 years.

The flow-on benefits from Simtars' international and domestic activities, commercial and otherwise, continue to be invested in improving the safety and health technology and expertise available to the Queensland mining industry.

As can be seen mine safety remains a priority of this government.

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 3

asked on 28 September 2012

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

QUESTION:

Can the Minister outline the actions taken to streamline project approvals in order to promote sustainable and productive utilisation of Queensland's minerals and natural resource wealth?

ANSWER:

Aligned with the objectives of Queensland's mining legislation, the government is taking action to streamline mining project approvals to encourage environmental responsibility and enable appropriate financial return to the state.

The *Streamlining Approvals* project is the primary initiative to reduce red tape and regulatory burden on the Queensland resources industry. The delivery of a modern, online tenure administration system, MyMinesOnline, is the focal point of the Streamlining project.

MyMinesOnline will assist in reducing assessment times for mining and petroleum projects. Online service delivery will improve the integration of government assessment process and will improve the transparency of the assessment process and certainty of pace.

Soon to be released MyMinesOnline functionality will allow online acceptance of exploration permit applications. This is a major milestone in modernising paper-based lodgement with online service delivery. Further MyMinesOnline functionality will continue to be released to encompass all tenure types and administrative process.

The government has sent a strong message to industry that Queensland is actively improving its investment attractiveness by passing the *Mines Legislation (Streamlining) Amendment Act 2012* this year. This Act reduces assessment times without compromising assessment rigour by transferring power to grant mining leases and petroleum leases to the Minister, provides a legislative framework for online lodgement, streamlines process and improves efficiency by providing greater consistency across the resources legislation.

The small-scale mining sector has also been recognised as an important aspect of mining in Queensland by making a commitment in the six-month action plan to review legislation and regulation to reduce red tape.

A package of reforms is currently being developed, in close cooperation with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, to reduce financial and administrative burdens for the small-scale mining sector. Measures will be developed that will alleviate pressure on existing small scale miners and also seek to revitalise the industry to the benefit of local economies.

The government is also reviewing the strategic cropping land standard conditions code for resource activities that are subject to the strategic cropping land framework.

Under the strategic cropping land framework, certain coal, mineral, petroleum and gas activities that can comply with the code are issued with a compliance certificate and are not subject to a full strategic cropping land protection decision assessment.

The revised code will allow a greater number of temporary resource activities on strategic cropping land to be assessable under the code—streamlining the assessment process for these activities.

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 4

asked on 28 September 2012

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

QUESTION:

What work has been done to minimise the impact of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines' cost savings program in areas of regional Queensland?

ANSWER:

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines is committed to reducing red tape on business while ensuring the sustainable use of Queensland's resources and quality services to its clients.

This commitment will help ensure a delivery-led, outcomes-based focus to policy development across the department that achieves the government's red tape reduction target of 20 per cent by 2018.

The department has worked with its stakeholders, particularly across the agricultural and resource sectors, to identify opportunities for reducing the regulatory burden on producers and business.

This is resulting in simpler, less cumbersome regulation and ensures that its administration is fit for purpose, streamlined and has a client focus designed to expedite approvals and information exchange.

The department is already delivering a number of reforms under the government's *90 Day Red Tape Reduction* program and *Six Month Action Plan*.

Within the first 90 days of this government, the department developed a suite of regulatory and administrative reforms. This included streamlining shotfirer licencing requirements and resource entitlement processes for low risk activities on state land, as well as implementing the issuing of low risk vegetation permits for fodder, thinning and infrastructure.

These initiatives reduced the regulatory burden for farmers and the resource and development industries by cutting unnecessary regulation and administration and speeding up approvals.

The department is developing legislative amendments to deliver on the government's *Six Month Action Plan*. It is reviewing legislation and regulation to reduce red tape for the small mining sector.

A new water metering framework is being developed that will provide greater flexibility for water users in installing and maintaining their meters, and will reduce the administrative role for government, while ensuring continued sustainable use of water resources.

These initiatives will deliver cost savings to business and government.

The department is committed to the government's reform of the planning system and, in conjunction with this reform, is reviewing all referral agency triggers administered by the department under the Sustainable Planning Regulation 2009.

Operational and policy areas of the department are working together to simplify requirements through self-assessable codes for vegetation management or water extraction, greater use of planning approaches rather than development assessment, and removal of some triggers.

Where reform is needed, we are expeditiously reducing approval times for landholders and the development industry.

To illustrate, local government identified the acid sulphate soils advice agency trigger as redundant, so it was removed immediately. This ceased the requirement for several hundred development applications a year to be referred to the department to duplicate assessments already made by local government.

This initiative, also implemented under the government's *90 Day Red Tape Reduction* initiative, reduced red tape by removing the cost of obtaining a range of development approvals and unnecessary delays for industry and local government.

The department will continue to implement red tape reduction initiatives that are operationally focused, support sustainable use of resources and deliver the greatest net benefit to all Queenslanders.

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 5

asked on 28 September 2012

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

How is the Department of Natural Resources and Mines looking to attract investment in emerging and operational minerals provinces, including the Galilee Basin?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is keenly aware of the need to stimulate resource exploration growth in Central and Western Queensland, not only to underpin the state's future economic growth, but to provide real employment and infrastructure benefits for rural communities.

To address this need, the government has implemented the \$7.7 million *New Minerals Frontier* initiative, a key component of the \$18 million *Greenfields 2020* program, carried out by the Geological Survey of Queensland within the Department of Natural Resources and Mines. This initiative aims to fuel exploration growth by providing new, high-quality, pre-competitive geophysical data to explorers to lower exploration risk, generate new exploration models, and identify new prospective targets. Geophysical data surveys were commissioned to highlight the magnetic and density (or gravity) character of deep rock layers, effectively opening up emerging "greenfields" regions to innovative explorers, as well as stimulating exploration in more well-known "brownfields" mineral provinces. These surveys were complemented by acquisition of radiometric data that provides invaluable information on surface rock and soil compositions.

Geophysical datasets were acquired as part of the *New Mineral Frontiers* initiative over two areas of the state – the Galilee Survey, covering over 44,000 square kilometres in Central Queensland (centred on Muttaborra), and the Thomson Survey, covering almost 124,000 square kilometres of southern Central Queensland, from Charleville south to the New South Wales border.

The Galilee Survey will provide coal explorers with important information on the structure of the Galilee Basin coal seams and will enable coal seam gas explorers to focus their exploration efforts into the most favourable sites. The geophysical data will also help to pinpoint buried areas of hot rocks suitable for geothermal power generation within the Galilee Basin.

The Thomson Survey will enable mineral explorers to find prospective copper-gold targets under shallow cover sediments in the Cunnamulla-Eulo area. This area has a similar geological environment to rocks hosting the large gold and base metal mineral deposits at Cadia and Cobar in New South Wales.

2.

Both the Galilee and Thomson geophysical surveys were completed by private contractors by the end of June 2012. The gravity data have been released to the public for both areas, and the magnetic and radiometric data are undergoing final quality-control at Geoscience Australia in Canberra. It is anticipated that both survey datasets will be released before the end of this year, bringing the total area of magnetic and radiometric coverage at this detail to 95 per cent of the state.

To further encourage “greenfields” exploration as part of the initiative, geoscientists in the department are undertaking a series of targeted prospectivity studies. These studies employ sophisticated geophysical analysis to appraise favourable areas in 3D and reveal potential targets beneath blanketing sedimentary layers. As over 70 per cent of the state’s prospective rocks fall into this category, the government is leading the way in encouraging the industry to adopt the new technologies required for 21st Century mineral exploration.

The department’s district-scale geophysical analyses are currently focussed on the Cloncurry-Mount Isa region, while a broader-scale scientific resource analysis of the Townville-Cairns hinterland (focussing on strategic metals) is due for completion by June 2014. As well as focussing on greenfields regions, these studies also involve reappraisal of “brownfields” areas using new ideas, data and technologies to stimulate re-entry of explorers into these more mature regions.

Results from this work have proven of great interest to explorers and also form a valuable input into government land-use planning processes. Outcomes from the latest prospectivity study in the Quamby area of North West Queensland were presented at the International Geological Congress held in Brisbane in August, and received great interest from both Australian and overseas mining interests.

These data acquisition and value-adding programs are attracting the international investment spotlight to Queensland, ensuring that the state’s economy will be well placed to profit from expanding Asian demand for our mineral and energy commodities.

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 6

asked on 28 September 2012

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

QUESTION:

Can the Minister please outline the commitments Natural Resources and Mines has made for protection of the Great Barrier Reef through programs, support, and funding?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is committed to protecting and safeguarding the future of the Great Barrier Reef. The government has committed \$5.4 million through the Department of Natural Resources and Mines to protect and enhance the health of the Great Barrier Reef. These commitments are delivered on-ground across the reef catchments through three primary programs:

- Paddock to Reef;
- Queensland Regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) Investment to the five reef regional NRM bodies; and
- Queensland Wetlands program.

The *Paddock to Reef* program, which provides \$2 million in funding, is a world-leading approach to evaluating the effectiveness of agricultural land management practices that have benefits for producers in the reef catchments, as well as water quality outcomes. One million dollars of the funding is provided to the regional NRM bodies to coordinate the paddock scale component of the program, and the remaining \$1 million is allocated to conducting water quality monitoring and modelling. The program provides rigorous information to support sustainable agriculture planning, improved land management practices, extension and education.

The five reef regional NRM bodies receive an additional amount of \$2.9 million aligned to activities such as sustainable agriculture, wetland rehabilitation, and pest and weed management which contributes towards improved water quality outcomes for the reef.

The department also provides \$500,000 to the *Queensland Wetlands* program which promotes the wise use of wetlands for multiple purposes, including production, tourism, water quality improvement, biodiversity, flood mitigation and others. The program delivers a range of tools and outcomes that are critical to the sustainable management of wetlands in Queensland and are essential to frontline staff, industry, on-ground activity and government. Through these initiatives and activities, the Queensland Government is dedicated to the preservation of the reef and ensuring the environmental values of the Great Barrier Reef are protected for future generations.

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 7

asked on 28 September 2012

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

QUESTION:

Can the Minister please describe Queensland's commitment to sustainable management of water across the State, in particular in the Gulf, Burdekin, Baffle and Great Artesian Basin, water resource plans?

ANSWER:

Queensland's water resource planning process is designed to plan for the allocation and sustainable management of water to meet Queensland's future water requirements. Water resource plans establish a framework to share water between human consumptive needs and environmental values. Such plans also recognise and provide for non-consumptive uses like fisheries, grazing and tourism that are important for the state and regional economies.

Water resource plans are developed through detailed technical and scientific assessment as well as extensive community consultation to determine the right balance between the many interests that rely on the state's water resources. Generally, a water resource plan will apply to a plan area's rivers, lakes, dams and springs and, if necessary, underground water and overland flow. In developing a plan, the size and nature of the resource is assessed to ensure that water is allocated within sustainable limits.

This includes the identification of unallocated water where water is set aside to meet that area's future urban growth, mining and/or irrigated agricultural requirements, without compromising the environment or the supply to existing water users. Reserves are also set aside, where required, to support new large-scale water infrastructure.

Unallocated water reserves have been identified after careful consideration of each catchment's water resources, as well as current and future economic, social and environmental needs.

The Queensland Government is determined to deliver fair and equitable decisions about unallocated water that protect the rights of existing water entitlement holders and the environment.

Water Resource (Gulf) Plan 2007

The Queensland Government has started a process to release unallocated water from the Flinders River and Gilbert River catchment areas, delivering a boost for the economy in the north west of the state. Up to 80,000 megalitres of unallocated water in the Flinders River catchment and up to 15,000 megalitres of unallocated water in

the Gilbert River catchment are available through a public tender process. Water licences granted through the release process will include conditions to protect existing rights to water and the Gulf's environmental, cultural, tourism and fisheries values. This water release builds on the government's commitment to support a productive and successful agricultural industry— one of the pillars of the state economy.

Water Resource (Great Artesian Basin) Plan 2006

In South West Queensland, the department is preparing to release unallocated water from general reserves in the Great Artesian Basin.

The department is proposing to undertake an unallocated water release process this financial year.

A review of this plan is being undertaken so that, as Minister, I am satisfied that, after five years of implementation, the plan's objectives remain current. This review will include additional water monitoring and water use information.

Water Resource (Baffle Creek Basin) Plan 2012

In Central Queensland, the department is planning to initiate a process for the release of unallocated water from the Baffle Creek Basin in late 2012.

The department is preparing to respond to the emerging water demands associated with future growth from the rural, agriculture and urban sectors through a release of unallocated water from the general reserve.

Water Resource (Burdekin Basin) Plan 2007

In the Galilee Basin in central to north Queensland, there are currently seven major coal mining projects under various stages of the approval process. The new mines will require reliable access to water.

The resource sector is one of the four pillars of the Queensland economy and the Queensland Government aims to support the sustainable growth of this industry.

The Galilee mines could deliver significant employment opportunities and royalty returns to the state.

The Burdekin Basin water resource plan sets aside unallocated water volumes of up to 150,000 megalitres in the Belyando-Suttor subcatchment, which overlaps with the coal resources.

The scale of development in the Galilee Basin is such that water resources will need to be well managed to optimise water availability, minimise costs and manage hydrologic, social, cultural, economic and environmental impacts of any new water resource development in this area.

The department is working closely with the Department of Energy and Water Supply, and the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning in developing a long-term water supply strategy for the region.

As the Minister responsible for both natural resources and mines, I understand the importance of a secure, reliable and affordable water supply in the mining industry. The government is committed to striking a fair balance between growing the mining and resources sector and the responsible management of our water resources.

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 8

asked on 28 September 2012

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

QUESTION:

Would the Minister please describe the plan to efficiently deal with vegetation management applications, vegetation monitoring, and compliance?

ANSWER:

As I announced at this year's annual AgForce conference in Charleville, the government's intention is to make common-sense practical reforms to the vegetation management framework. This includes streamlining the application process for a number of common management activities, such as thinning and weed control.

It is proposed, under the reforms, that these activities become self-assessable, removing the need for the landholder to make an application to the department and the need for the department to assess each application.

The department is also working on streamlining the assessment process for Property Map of Assessable Vegetation (PMAV) to ensure decisions are made in a timely fashion. The new process will also allow the current backlog of PMAVs to be reduced as quickly as possible.

Compliance monitoring for vegetation management is largely on the basis of analysis of the annual Statewide Landcover and Trees Study (SLATS) satellite imagery. Remote imagery specialists within the Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts review satellite imagery data to identify unexplained vegetation clearing.

Additional monitoring occurs as a result of intelligence from complaints and reports of unexplained vegetation clearing.

In both instances, unexplained clearing is checked to ascertain whether there is an obvious explanation, such as whether a development approval has been issued, or the clearing is as a result of a lawful pursuit, such as a native forestry practice. In some instances, it is identified that the unexplained clearing of vegetation is not subject to the provisions of the vegetation management framework.

In the event that there is no obvious explanation for the clearing and it is identified that the vegetation is subject to the vegetation management framework, the area may be inspected and the property owner and other relevant entities will need to clarify what work has been done on the property. In many instances, this results in the

legislation and its intent being clarified, work practices being adjusted, and no further action being necessary.

Where monitoring identifies a breach or potential breach of the legislation, further action is undertaken to ascertain a measured and proportionate response to achieve compliance. That is not to say that all breaches of the legislation are intentional or warrant prosecution. There are a range of tools available to promote and achieve compliance with natural resource legislation, including vegetation management legislation, not just prosecutions.

As the vast majority of Queenslanders set out to comply with the law, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines works proactively with law abiding and hard-working Queenslanders to assist them comply with the legislation. The department will continue to work to detect deliberate non-compliance and correct that behaviour by the most appropriate and measured means, but no longer will the first and only option be to prosecute.

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 9

asked on 28 September 2012

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

QUESTION:

How will the proposed changes to water metering reduce the costs of water metering to irrigators and the Department of Natural Resources and Mines?

ANSWER:

New arrangements will be implemented during 2012–13 to streamline water meter installation and management in rural catchments across Queensland.

Under these new arrangements, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines will specify minimum requirements for water metering, with the purchase, installation and maintenance of meters being the responsibility of the landholder.

The new framework will replace current processes where the department purchases water meters, and then manages installation and maintenance, primarily through external contractors, and recovers costs through charges levied on landholders.

Landholders will be responsible for payment of the direct costs of meter installation and maintenance, so government charges will be substantially reduced and eliminated where possible.

The overall cost to landholders will be reduced as landholders will be able to choose a meter and arrange for installation and maintenance. This is good news for irrigators, who regularly complain about charges levied to recover the cost of meters and contractors.

There will also be a reduction in annual meter operating charges for the reading of meters for areas where the department had already arranged the installation of meters.

The new framework will also result in savings for the government through a reduction of costs for managing contracts and administering the program.

The need to implement water metering in an area will continue to be based on water planning and management priorities. Water meter installation is also a critical link in allowing landholders to enter water trading markets.

A transition period to 30 June 2013 is required to:

- finalise the installation of meters in current project areas;
- make changes to the Water Regulation 2002; and
- work with landholders and industry to develop the necessary metering capacity and accreditation.

2,

In the meantime, the department will not be installing any water meters in new areas which are currently not metered; however, it will finalise installations in areas where work is currently under way.

The department will complete the installations in high priority catchments where work is currently under way in the Burdekin, Coastal Burnett, Condamine–Balonne, Gowrie Oakey Creek, Oakey Creek, Lower Balonne, Whitsunday and Mulgrave Russell areas.

Most of the approximately 1400 meter installations in these areas have been completed with the remainder scheduled for completion by the end of November 2012.

The department will be working with the water user communities around the state to explain the new process and work out a transition process and to ensure landholders are aware of the important role they play in the management of water in Queensland.

During the 2012–13 financial year, the state will invest up to \$2.4 million in water metering to finalise current project areas and to implement transition arrangements for the new metering process.

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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

No. 10

asked on 28 September 2012

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

QUESTION:

The release of water for tender in the Flinders and Gilbert was recently completed by the Queensland Government. Would the Minister describe how the real cost of tendering water, and the planned outcomes for water allocation in the Flinders and Gilbert River catchments?

ANSWER:

In late July 2012, I announced the commencement of a tender process to release 80,000 megalitres of unallocated water from the Flinders River Catchment and 15,000 megalitres from the Gilbert River Catchment.

Importantly, these volumes meet the requirements of the Gulf Water Resource Plan and reflect potential demand for water in the catchment areas at this time.

As a result of community feedback, I recently requested that the Department of Natural Resources and Mines extend the closing date for tenders to give irrigators more time to demonstrate the merits of their proposals.

The department has extended the closing date from 28 September 2012 to 26 October 2012.

In order to protect the integrity of the tender process which is still underway, I am unable to provide information on the financial cost of the tender process. To be successful, tenders must meet the conditions and evaluation criteria of the process, including the reserve price.

The price charged for unallocated water is a one-off, up-front cost.

Granting water licences from unallocated water based on merit ensures that water is allocated to landholders who present the best opportunities for using the resource.

This process strikes the right balance between economic development and responsible management of our water resources.

Water licences granted from unallocated water will include conditions to protect existing rights to water and the Gulf's environmental, cultural, tourism and fisheries values.

2.

This release complements the work being undertaken by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation under the North Queensland Irrigated Agriculture strategy.

This release also supports the government's commitment to grow the agricultural sector as one of the pillars of the state economy, and all the water that can be presently made available from these catchments has been made available.

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1

asked on 27 September 2012

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

QUESTION:

I refer to page 4 of the SDS and the Minister's statement on 19 April 2012 that the Government has placed investigations and penalties on hold relating to the Vegetation Management Act and had discontinued appeals by the Department seeking increased penalties. Can the Minister advise (a) the number of breaches in the 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 financial years, reported separately (b) the area of land illegally cleared in each of those financial years (c) the amount of revenue collected through prosecuting these breaches and (d) how much revenue has been forgone in the 2012-13 Budget and forward estimates?

ANSWER:

The State Landcover and Trees Study (SLATS) imagery is used to identify changes in vegetation cover within areas regulated by the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* which are unable to be otherwise explained as lawfully approved or exempt activities. The accumulation and interpretation of the SLATS data are lengthy scientific processes that can take greater than 12 months to generate specific alleged clearing allegations for investigation.

As a result, specific figures on the number of total breaches in the 2009–10 financial year onwards are not currently available. Due to the time required to collate, interpret and then investigate potential breaches, the department is unable to identify the number of specific breaches that occurred during the periods you have requested.

It is possible that additional instances of breaches of the legislation in each of these financial years requested may still be identified as a result of ongoing analysis of SLATS satellite imagery, further public complaints and follow up field work.

This government is working to ensure that, where a deliberate act of non-compliance is identified, enforcement action is measured and proportionate.

In regards to the specific financial years and your request, I can provide the following data:

- (a) In relation to the number of breaches for illegal clearing, there has been one breach determined by the court for illegal clearing in 2009–10; two in 2010–11 and there have been no court determinations yet made for the financial year 2011–12.

2.

- (b) The findings of the courts have been that in 2009-10 14 hectares of vegetation were illegally cleared; in 2010-11 19 hectares were illegally cleared; and as there have yet to be any findings by the Court in regard to illegal clearing in 2011-12 no reportable area is available.
- (c) In 2009–10, fines totalling \$23,500 were levied by the court in relation to the offence committed, and in 2010–11, \$22,500 was levied in relation to the offences committed. That is a total of \$46,000 levied by the court for illegal clearing.

I can also advise that, in addition, the previous Department of Environment and Resource Management took a range of alternative enforcement actions in response to allegations of unauthorised vegetation clearing notifications. They ranged from the issue of monetary fines through to corrective action requirements and warning notices.

Of note, 14 penalty infringement notices were issued for alleged minor clearing offences in the 2009–10 and 2010–11 financial years inclusive, totalling \$22,575. The breakdown of this total is:

- 2009–10 eight penalty infringement notices with a total penalty of \$12,175; and
- 2010–11 six penalty infringement notices with a total penalty of \$10,400.

No penalty infringement notices have yet been issued in 2011–12 in relation to any identified unlawful clearing events.

- (d) The 2012–13 Budget and forward estimates have not been reduced as a result of the decision to place investigations and penalties on hold.

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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

No. 2

asked on 27 September 2012

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

QUESTION:

I refer to page 14 of the SDS for Natural Resources and Mines where it details that the target for the “Number of structured programs / activities helping business build their capacity, improve their performance and/or access opportunities” is lower in 2012–13 than the estimated actual for 2011–12. The footnote further states that the increase in 2011–12 reflected “increased demand for mine safety training”. If there is increased demand for mine safety training, why are there 56 less programs / activities being targeted for in 2012–13?

ANSWER:

The increased demand for mine safety training in 2011–12 was related to a significant growth in employee numbers in the mining industry over the preceding 12 months.

The projected decrease in activities in 2012–13 is as a result of recent announcements by the mining industry of a slow down in activities, and the increased competitiveness from suppliers in the training industry, while also recognising that Simtars resources have been diverted in the early part of 2012–13 to address safety concerns at major mines.

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 3

asked on 27 September 2012

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

QUESTION:

I refer to page 28 of the SDS for Natural Resources and Mines where it details at footnote 3 to the income statement a deferral of the Water for the Future Program, Valuation Appeals, Native Title claims, Greenfields 2020 and the Streamlining Mining and Petroleum Approvals functions. Can the Minister advise the reason for these deferrals listed separately?

ANSWER:

Your question refers to the major variations between the 2011–12 Adjusted Budget and the 2011–12 Estimated Actual for Supplies and Services. The Supplies and Services for 2011–12 Adjusted Budget was \$46.997 million and the 2011–12 Estimates Actual was \$20.191 million—a decrease of \$26.806 million.

As per Footnote 3, the variation in Supplies and Services is due to the deferral of funds into the 2012–13 Estimate. The deferrals primarily are made up of the following items:

- The *Water for the Future* program deferral relates to a delay in the implementation of water infrastructure programs to 2012–13. This is a Commonwealth Government program that includes two main components—
 - a water entitlement purchasing program (Restoring the Balance in the Murray–Darling Basin); and
 - an infrastructure investment program (including Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program and Water Smart Australia).

The water entitlement purchasing program is entirely undertaken by the Commonwealth Government—Queensland has no part in this program. The infrastructure investment program (known in Queensland as the *Healthy Headwater Water Use Efficiency* program) remains in progress after a recent announcement inviting a third round of proposals.

- The valuation appeals deferral is to ensure that the department and legal counsel have funds carried forward to finalise the payment of legal costs in relation to appeals relating to the valuation of shopping centre valuations for Pacific Fair and Chermside dating back to 2003. The payment of the costs has been ordered by the courts and there is no option but to comply with this obligation.

2.

- The native title claims deferral is due to legal and native title claim resolution expenses. The Federal Court has scheduled 22 consent determinations and has set down six matters for trial in 2012–13.
- The *Greenfields 2020* deferral is for the purchase of a large spatial data online delivery system. The system will manage and deliver large spatial data sets, such as airborne geophysical surveys, hyperspectral surveys, gravity surveys, seismic surveys and 3D models, so that clients can self-serve subsets of data for download or can request larger volumes for packaged delivery.
- The *Streamlining Mining and Petroleum Approvals Tenure* functions deferral is due to delays in rolling out the system as a result of difficulty in recruiting staff with the skills required for the project. The objective of this project is to deliver a system that will reduce red tape and drive efficiencies in the mining approvals process.

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 4

asked on 27 September 2012

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

QUESTION:

If the target for titles registry (in 5 days) as set out on page 15 of the SDS was exceeded at 94% in 2011-12 why is the target for 2012-13 back at 90% when the Government is increasing lodgement title fees to raise an additional \$24 million and is spending \$5.5 million on an Automated Titles System?

ANSWER:

The Automated Titles System (ATS) commenced operation in 1994 to computerise the former paper-based title registers. The ATS has been progressively enhanced over the years, but its underlying software platform remains largely a legacy of the 1990s.

The government will increase the standard lodgement fee of \$137.10 by \$15 in order to generate a revenue stream of approximately \$6 million that will be reinvested in modernising the Department of Natural Resources and Mines' critical land and cadastral information technology systems including the ATS.

A budgeted investment of \$5.5 million in the ATS will fund the modernisation project and also support the development, testing and rollout of an interface to the new national electronic conveyancing system being developed in collaboration with the other states.

The ATS modernisation in itself will not immediately deliver efficiencies or savings. It is an essential and major risk mitigation strategy to ensure the ongoing integrity and reliability of this critical system that is the cornerstone of titles registry operations and is fundamental to the government's Torrens title guarantee that secures and protects property interests in Queensland.

In the meantime, the government is committed to maintaining a service standard that reflects a realistic target for timeliness in registering interests on title.

As the government continues to grow Queensland's four pillar economy, the amount of title transactions is likely to increase. This is in response to the stimulation of the property and construction sectors, with some signs of the beginnings of a moderate recovery starting to emerge.

Maintaining a realistic 90 per cent target to cover all dealings lodged in the titles registry balances the need for timeliness in registration against the need for diligent

compliance examination and registration processes that ensure the rights and entitlements of registered proprietors are appropriate, secure and protected.

Subdued activity in the property sector contributed to the favourable result of SDS exceeding the target at 94 per cent in 2011–12. This was largely a consequence of the global economic downturn, with less complex types of title dealings lodged for registration (such as basic transfers of ownership and mortgages). As the economy continues to grow, the complexity of titles dealings will also increase and the target of 90 per cent is considered to be appropriate moving forward.

While most transfers and mortgages are usually registered within a couple of days, it is important to acknowledge the significant proportion of relatively complex dealings which, by their very nature, involve a myriad of complicated legal, surveying and titling practice implications that must be factored into the service standard, for example, the transmission of deceased estates, large community title developments, and potentially contentious caveat and court-related issues.

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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

No. 5

asked on 27 September 2012

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

QUESTION:

I refer to page 28 of the SDS for Natural Resources and Mines where it details that savings are being made from land legislative and operational reform and water metering. Can the Minister advise what these savings consist of within each of these areas and what the amount saved is for each of these areas listed separately?

ANSWER:

The savings realised for major legislative and operational reforms to land services that will streamline business processes and reduce regulatory burden will be an estimated \$8 million.

This includes:

- simplification of the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967*;
- simplification of the vegetation management framework;
- Rural Leasehold Land Lease renewal;
- rationalisation of operational processing activity, and streamlining and reform of *Land Act* regulatory provisions; and
- rationalisation of management structures and vacant positions.

Water metering reforms will achieve ongoing savings of an estimated \$1 million per annum. Water licensees will be able to purchase, install and maintain a water meter that meets their individual circumstance. This will substantially reduce red tape, departmental meter use and meter operating charges, program management and additional billing activities.

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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

No. 6

asked on 27 September 2012

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

QUESTION:

I refer to page 84 of Budget Paper 2 of the 2012-13 Budget. Will the Minister advise how many positions (broken down by permanent, temporary, casual and contract) have been abolished since 26 March 2012 in the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, listed by job title, salary level and location and/or departmental region?

ANSWER:

I can advise that as at 27 September 2012 my department had reduced its size by 405 positions. This figure includes a reduction of 288 Permanent, 6 Contract and 111 Temporary positions since March 2012.

The regional data represents the staff reductions against each of our regions with a separation of Brisbane CBD data.

Title	Permanent	S122 Contract	SES Contract	Temporary	Grand Total
OO4	1				1
Support Officer					
AO2	22			23	45
Administration Officer					
Assistant Conference Centre Coordinator					
Business Support Officer					
Customer Service Officer					
Products Officer					
AO3	41			28	69
Administration Officer					
Business Support Officer					
Conference Centre Coordinator					
Customer Service Officer					
Desktop Publisher					
Executive Assistant					
Graduate policy officer					
Information Officer					
Paralegal/Project Officer					
Policy Officer					
Project Officer					
Research Officer					
AO4	39			6	45
Administration Officer					
Debt Recovery Officer					
Executive Secretary					

Leader (Water Resource Management)						
Policy Officer						
Principal Project Officer						
Regional Finance Officer						
Senior Administration Officer						
Senior Advisor						
Senior Communications and Client Liaison Officer						
Senior Communications Officer						
Senior Land Officer						
Senior Natural Resources Officer						
Senior Officer Planning & Development						
Senior Policy Officer						
Senior Project Officer						
Senior Vegetation Management Officer						
A07		24			2	26
Business Advisor						
Business System Manager						
Coordinator Historical						
Digital Solutions Manager						
Manager						
Principal Advisor						
Principal Environmental Officer						
Principal Land Officer						
Principal Media Officer						
Principal Policy Officer						
Principal Products Officer						
Principal Project Officer						
Senior Business Analyst						
State Negotiator						

Team Leader Aquatic Ecosystem Report									
A08									23
Account Manager									
Manager									
Principal Advisor									
Principal Policy Analyst									
Principal Policy Officer									
Regional Manager									
Senior State Negotiator									
Team Leader									
AOT									
Trainee - Office Administration								1	1
002									
Maintenance Officer (Cleaning)								1	1
003									
Health Safety & Env Operations Officer								1	1
004									
Operations Officer								1	1
005									
Technical Officer (Drilling)								1	1
006									
Senior Technical Officer (Drilling)								1	1
P01									
Surveyor								1	2
Valuer									
P02									
Assistant Valuer								15	27
Data Analyst									
Graduate Project Officer									
Natural Resource Management Officer									

Policy Officer									
Project Manager									
Project Officer									
Scientist (Aquatic Ecology)									
Spatial Information Officer									
Vegetation Management Officer									
PO3									
Land Resources Officer									
Natural Resources Officer									
Planning Officer									
Policy Officer (Science)									
Project Officer									
Senior Lawyer									
Senior Policy Officer									
Senior Scientist									
Senior Spatial Information Officer									
Spatial Information Officer									
Surveyor									
Valuer									
PO4									
Lawyer									
Senior Engineer									
Senior Historian/Anthropologist									
Senior Lawyer									
Senior Planning Officer									
Senior Policy Officer									
Senior Rehabilitation Scientist									
Senior Spatial Information Officer									
Senior Valuer									
Senior Water Monitoring Officer									

Senior Laboratory Technical							
Senior Technical Officer							
TO5							3
Principal Hydrographer							
Senior District Advisor							
Senior Extension Officer							
Grand Total			288	1	5	111	405

Region	Permanent	S122 Contract	SES Contract	Temporary	Grand Total
Brisbane CBD	144	1	4	50	199
Central	23			10	33
North	29			13	42
South	92		1	38	131
Grand Total	288	1	5	111	405

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 7

asked on 27 September 2012

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

QUESTION:

I refer to Schedule 2 in the *Appropriation Bill 2012* outlining the 2012-13 funding allocation for the Department of Natural Resources and Mines and to page 9 of the SDS outlining a staffing reduction of 462 FTEs from the 2011-12 adjusted budget to the 2012-13 estimate. Will the Minister list every work unit, branch and/or division that has been abolished within the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, specifically separating out any reductions in Mine Safety, Health Services, Water Services and Land services and the number of staff positions contained within each abolished work area, as part of the process of developing the 2012-13 State Budget?

ANSWER:

Firstly, may I point out that the total staffing reduction for the Department of Natural Resources and Mines will be 413, not 462

Secondly, in identifying positions that could be de-limited, the department firstly looked at vacant funded roles, of which there were 71.

As at 30 June 2012, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines had a workforce of 2828 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff. In 2012–13, the department will have 2444 FTE staff by 30 June 2013. This represents a reduction of 384 FTEs.

An additional staffing reduction of 29 FTEs to allow for reduced cost in the 2013–14 financial year will occur before the end of the current financial year to allow for a full year of savings in the following year, which takes the total reduction to 413 FTEs.

The expected decrease of FTEs is made up of:

- 14 per cent in Water and Catchments;
- 29 per cent in Land and Indigenous Services;
- 35 per cent in Natural Resources Operations;
- 5 per cent in Mining and Petroleum; and
- 17 per cent in Business and Corporate Partnerships.

There has been no reduction to front line services in Mine Safety and Health.

These savings have been achieved through a restructure of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, which has brought together Service Delivery and Policy and Program Support functions from across the former department.

2.

This new structure will enable the department to be more flexible with its resources so that it can meet the government's priorities with maximum efficiency. It also realises the government's focus on Service Delivery and the customer experience, which will now be a driving force in the development of natural resource and mining policy.

Meanwhile, the integrity of the Mines Safety and Health function has been maintained as a separate business area.

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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

No. 8

asked on 27 September 2012

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

QUESTION:

Can the Minister advise of the factors leading to the decision to close the Small Mines office in Mareeba and how small miners in the region will now access similar services?

ANSWER:

There has been no decision taken to close the Mines office of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines in Mareeba.

This office continues to provide critical frontline services not only to the small mining industry but to all stakeholders in the mining industry in the North Queensland region.

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 9

asked on 27 September 2012

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise of the value of mineral wealth unable to be mined due to the lack of energy, rail or road infrastructure in North Queensland. Can the Minister provide his response in mineral and resource category with associated value in current commodity prices?

ANSWER:

In North Queensland, I am not aware of any specific mineral resource that is currently stated as being unable to be mined as a direct result of the lack of energy, rail or road infrastructure; however, I am aware of a number of projects that are currently under development that will require expansion or new infrastructure construction to allow the projects to be progressed into production.

I am also aware of a number of bulk commodity coal and mineral resources that will also require appropriate infrastructure for any future development to be undertaken.

One of the steps in assessing a viable mining operation is a feasibility study that must include the costs associated with a range of infrastructure types to support the operation. This includes the costs of energy, rail and road infrastructure.

A good example of this is the need for a multi-user rail load out facility near Cloncurry that is integral to the production from the Ernest Henry copper, gold and magnetite mine, and the planned development of the Dugald River zinc/lead mine and the Rocklands copper, gold and cobalt mine.

These projects alone are estimated to require somewhere in the order of \$1.8 billion in capital, and will create approximately 600 jobs for the region. The infrastructure required by these operations is included in their capital development costs.

The recent MITEZ (Mount Isa Townsville Economic Zone) 50-Year Freight Infrastructure Plan (MITEZ report) identified that the future demand for critical supply chain infrastructure is likely to expand in the Townsville to Mount Isa region. This region had an estimated \$15 billion gross regional value in 2010–11 that has been modelled to increase significantly, potentially more than doubling in value by 2050, and would include new high-value mineral mines in this significant increase. These high-value mineral developments are stated to not impact markedly on the freight infrastructure in the region.

2.

The infrastructure requirements for other known coal and bulk mineral commodities in the region are viewed by industry as a logistics and cost issue associated with the development of the operation, rather than a lack of infrastructure issue.

The future growth in the North Queensland region, which is in part reflected by the MITEZ report, is very positive. The provision of required infrastructure for new mineral or coal mine developments in the future will be a consideration for proponents in their economic feasibility assessment and is an integral part of the total capital cost of any development.

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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

No. 10

asked on 27 September 2012

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

QUESTION:

Can the Minister advise how many positions and services in his department which have been terminated since March 2012 will be outsourced to private enterprise?

ANSWER:

None of the positions or services ceased from March 2012 until October 2012 has been outsourced to private enterprise.

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

No. 1

Asked on 27 September 2012

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

I refer to 5 – 4 of the Service Delivery Statements. Would the Minister advise the steps being taken under his leadership to re-structure and re-focus the Department to again deliver frontline services that Queensland primary producers need and deserve?

ANSWER:

Under my leadership, we have established a new standalone department with the frontline and support services that will deliver on the Government's priorities while meeting the budget savings.

We are revitalising our frontline service by recruiting talented people to positions in known biosecurity risk areas to boost the already high level of professional expertise to prepare for, detect and respond to incidents.

My department is recruiting 15 new frontline officers to work in regional parts of the state. These officers include three cattle tick inspectors, five wild dog officers, three crop protection officers, two weed and pest animal officers, a horticulture officer for Bundaberg and a Fisheries Extension Officer based in Ayr.

The positions are also intended to enhance Biosecurity Queensland's capacity to work with industry, regional communities and local government.

We have introduced savings strategies aimed at reducing the cost of running the department and administering and promoting complicated legislation and policies.

Services that did not produce significant increases in productivity, or were not supported by industry, were reduced, especially if those services could be offered by the private sector or other government and research organisations.

We are working with producers and staff to identify ways that government can assist industry double food production, such as the Land Audit and Agriculture Strategy. Our regulatory effort is about simplifying the legislation we administer and reducing the red tape that inhibits productivity for the sector.

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

No. 2

Asked on 27 September 2012

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

I refer to 5 – 4 of the Service Delivery Statements. Would the Minister please outline what actual steps he has taken to bolster frontline biosecurity services in regional Queensland?

ANSWER:

The standalone Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry was established as part of the first 100 days action plan of the Newman Government.

The 15 new frontline officers I promised as part of this commitment to agriculture are all in the process of being appointed. These officers include three cattle tick inspectors, five wild dog officers, three crop protection officers, two weed and pest animal officers, a horticulture officer for Bundaberg and a Fisheries Extension Officer based in Ayr.

The officers will be located at Gatton, Longreach, Roma, Charleville, Blackall, Warwick, Nambour, Beaudesert, Kingaroy, Emerald, St George, Mareeba, Charters Towers, Bundaberg and Ayr.

The new Cattle Tick Inspectors will improve the effectiveness of the tick line and work as part of a state-wide team to provide information to producers about cattle tick management, investigate breaches and respond to tick outbreaks.

The Wild Dog officers will work with landholders, local councils and others groups to advise on, coordinate and assist with wild dog control efforts.

The Crop Protection Officers will focus on plant disease surveillance, plant pests and chemical residue and spray drift issues. One officer will also focus on locust management and another on the maintenance of certifications for interstate trade.

The banana industry and the dry tropics region of North Queensland will benefit from the additional Weed and Pest Animal Officers that will work closely with existing staff, local governments and landholders. The officer at Mareeba will also focus on yellow sigatoka control.

Market issues, including red tape reduction, will be the focus of the Horticulture Officer at Bundaberg that will enhance existing research and extension capacity in the area.

The Fisheries Extension Officer will deliver extension and provide a direct service to the North Queensland Fishing Industry.

These officers will significantly strengthen the Department's capacity to manage cattle ticks, wild dogs, weeds and pest animals. They will also boost support to horticulture, crop protection and fishing industry resource management.

In addition, there has been a major restructure of Biosecurity Queensland's resources with a simplified management structure and less focus on administrative and support functions and greater focus on providing better client services. The new structure within Biosecurity Queensland will see nearly 90 percent of staff directly involved in the operations, science and customer service functions.

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

No. 3

Asked on 27 September 2012

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

I refer to 5 – 3 of the Service Delivery Statements. Can the Minister outline what steps are being taken by his new stand-alone Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry to identify additional agricultural land to help support the LNP Government's program to double food production in Queensland by 2040?

ANSWER:

Work on the Agriculture Land Audit is well underway. A dedicated team within the Department is preparing information and maps about existing productive agricultural land, areas with development potential and the main factors that might limit development.

Regionally-based government experts are checking the draft findings of the Audit to confirm accuracy of mapping and information, and to provide a local perspective.

The Audit will identify important agricultural land to work out where agriculture can occur based on the soils, slope and rainfall, and where agricultural activities may be economically viable with access to labour and markets.

As agriculture is a diverse industry, the Audit includes specific information about cropping, grazing, intensive animals, dairy, forestry, cane and horticulture.

I have instructed the Department that I wish to complete the Audit as soon as possible, and the Darling Downs and Central Queensland parts will be available for release early in 2013.

The Audit will provide information that may be used for a range of purposes, such as planning, research, industry development and expanded production.

The Audit report should help focus on the important questions about doubling food production by 2040. To achieve this ambitious target, we must take a strategic approach to resource availability, growth in productivity and value and reduce production costs.

The report that results from the Audit will be the first time that information about existing and possible agricultural development will be provided on a consistent, state-wide basis. This will be important to informing a strategy for doubling food production.

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

No. 4

Asked on 27 September 2012

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

I refer to SDS 5 – 4 of the Service Delivery Statements. Can the Minister advise how the Government is assisting primary producers in the Flinders and Gilbert River regions to diversify their grazing operations to include irrigated agriculture?

ANSWER:

The North Queensland Irrigated Agriculture Strategy (NQIAS) is a joint Australian and Queensland Government project to realise the potential of development in Northern Australia, focusing on the Flinders and Gilbert Rivers. A good deal of work has already been done on the irrigation potential of these rivers.

The Queensland Government is investing \$3 million into practical, on-ground support for commercial agricultural development on these rivers. It is working with CSIRO to ensure the latest science is readily available to maximise the prospects for success, and avoid the mistakes that sometimes occurred in southern irrigation schemes.

Agriculture is one of the four pillars of the Queensland economy. The Newman Government has an Agriculture Strategy that underpins its goal to double food production in Queensland by 2040.

The Queensland Government has redefined its role in the NQIAS so it is consistent with these goals. Instead of the field trials proposed by my predecessor, the Queensland Government is working with regional champions and local stakeholders to focus on common-sense ways to get commercial irrigation on local properties actually happening, for the economic benefit of local communities.

The Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, the Honourable Andrew Cripps MP, has called for tenders from those wishing to obtain a water licence from all the water that is currently available under the Water Resource Plan. This consists of 80 000 ML of water in the Flinders River and 15, 000 ML of water in the Gilbert River.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is directly supporting producers through the tender process and the development of their applications.

The banning of live exports by the Gillard Federal Government was a wake-up call to local producers to look at ways to diversify their businesses. The majority of proponents are experienced pastoralists, but have limited experience in cropping.

DAFF will continue to support producers by helping them source expertise during the development of their irrigation infrastructure, decisions on the crops to plant and associated agronomic advice, as well as keeping the producers up to date with the latest results from CSIRO trials.

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

No. 5

Asked on 27 September 2012

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

I refer to SDS 5 – 3 of the Service Delivery Statements. Can the Minister advise how the Government is working to ensure the long-term sustainability of Queensland fisheries and in particular the inshore net fishery?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government will ensure the long-term sustainability of Queensland's commercial and recreational fisheries through ongoing monitoring of fish stocks, effective management and review of regulations.

In particular, the long-term sustainability of the inshore net fishery will be largely addressed through our election commitment to invest \$9 million to help restore the health and well-being of our fisheries to buyback commercial netting licences. Fisheries Queensland, within the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, is overseeing the implementation of the voluntary buyback while QRAA will administer the payments.

To be eligible for participation in the buyback, commercial fishers will need to surrender a commercial fishing boat licence and either an N1 or N2 netting symbol. Preference will also be given to commercial fishers who also offer a C1 crabbing symbol.

The buyback will consist of a number of rounds, with the first round to concentrate on the East Coast fishery and commence in November this year. Subsequent rounds for all Queensland waters will be undertaken in 2013. This voluntary buyback is expected to have a positive outcome for recreational fishers through reduced competition for our fisheries resources. Impacts on species of conservation interest such as turtles and dugongs will also be reduced due to less nets being used in our waters.

In addition, \$1 million will be used to conduct a state-wide recreational fishing survey in 2013-14. The survey will identify current trends and the value of recreational fishing throughout Queensland and build upon information collected from previous surveys. Some of these funds will also be allocated to enhance regional in-field monitoring of important recreational fishing areas from 2013-14.

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

No. 6

Asked on 27 September 2012

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

I refer to SDS 5 - 4 of the Service Delivery Statements. Can the Minister detail how his government is developing better disease diagnostic systems for the Queensland chicken egg industry?

ANSWER:

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is developing better poultry disease diagnostic systems through research, development and delivery activities.

Agri-Science Queensland in collaboration with the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI) is presently undertaking R&D to develop improved diagnostic applications to control coccidiosis and fowl cholera.

Poultry coccidiosis is caused by *Eimeria* spp. Vaccines and diagnostic tests for identifying the different species causing the disease have already been developed by DAFF. A current \$330,000 Poultry Cooperative Research Centre (CRC), DAFF and QAAFI project is developing DNA based markers to screen bird faeces as a non-invasive, rapid and relatively cheap method for detecting and monitoring *Eimeria* species and strain differences in order to improve the protection of the current vaccine.

Fowl cholera is a major disease of the free range egg industry. QAAFI/DAFF research scientists have developed capacities to identify the causative agent (*Pasteurella multocida*) by rapid molecular methods and then type the isolates. The typing helps producers identify possible sources of the disease (to improve biosecurity) and to guide vaccination programs. Current on-going research (co-funded by the Poultry CRC) is focussed on improvement of the typing methods to provide more rapid and more specific guidance on vaccination programs.

Biosecurity Queensland has recently established PCR based molecular assays to deliver more rapid diagnosis for six poultry pathogens, the best known of which are Avian Influenza Virus and Newcastle Disease Virus.

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

No. 7

Asked on 27 September 2012

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

I refer to 5 - 4 of the Service Delivery Statements. Can the Minister provide details on how his standalone Department is supporting Queensland cattle producers with improved forage oat varieties to help them finish cattle to slaughter weights sooner and enhance profitability.

ANSWER:

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) invests in a forage oat breeding project based at Leslie Research Centre in Toowoomba. The objective of the project is the release of improved forage oat varieties with high forage yield, durable resistance to leaf rust, late maturity and rapid re-growth.

Queensland cattle producers benefit from this project through access to superior new varieties which will increase the size of the feed base available to them, and improve the profitability of farming enterprises reliant on forage oats for fattening cattle during the winter months.

Forage oat varieties with better and more durable resistance to leaf rust will improve the reliability and security of dryland grazing for cattle producers using forage oats as the main feed base during early autumn and spring. Leaf rust is the most serious disease of forage oats, reducing forage yield, quality and palatability.

Forage oats is the preferred winter forage crop in sub-tropical Australia and an important feed source for the beef cattle industry in central and southern Queensland and northern New South Wales.

The area planted to forage oats each season is estimated at 500,000 hectares and the crop is planted by an estimated 4,350 growers each year. The value of the liveweight gain produced from this feed source by the beef cattle industry each year alone is estimated at \$250M. Forage oat is also an important feed source for the dairy cattle and sheep industries.

A long-term partnership between the breeding program and the seed company Heritage Seeds ensures the rapid delivery of new varieties to the marketplace, and maximises the benefits of the new varieties for forage oat growers and Queensland cattle producers.

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

No. 8

Asked on 27 September 2012

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

I refer to 5 - 20 of the Service Delivery Statements. Can the Minister advise what improvements and upgrades are being undertaken at Brian Pastures research station, and how this will assist the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry to better focus its efforts to improve long-term productivity for Queensland cattle producers.

ANSWER:

As part of a significant investment into the Beef industry, infrastructure and equipment upgrades are being finalised in 2012-13 at the recently purchased Spyglass Beef Research Facility at Charters Towers and Brian Pastures Research Facility at Gayndah.

Up to \$500,000 has been allocated for Brian Pastures for upgrades to existing animal trial pens in the cattle yards, fencing, heavy plant and equipment and refurbishment of buildings.

Brian Pastures is part of a network of new and established beef research facilities across the State. Together with Brian Pastures these are the Spyglass Beef Research Facility at Charters Towers, the Centre for Advanced Animal Sciences at Gatton, the EcoSciences Precinct at Boggo Road and the Health and Food Sciences Precinct at Coopers Plains.

The development of these facilities assists the key areas of beef research, development and extension that are:

- improving animal reproduction, growth and market suitability;
- improving the feedbase through high forage production and grazing land management;
- improving the use of remote technologies; and
- improving systems integration focusing on people, enterprises and business resilience through increased adoption of best management practices.

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

No. 9

Asked on 27 September 2012

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

I refer to SDS 5 - 4 of Service Delivery Statements. Can the Minister advise how he is helping promote and expand the operations of apiary industry in Queensland and through them agriculture and horticultural generally, specifically through renewed access to State-owned forests for beekeepers?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is working with the apiary industry on a range of measures to provide beekeepers with greater access to State-owned native forest areas on a secure basis.

Currently, there are some 4,600 apiary sites available for use under the *Forestry Act 1959* on State forest throughout Queensland to provide certainty of access to the 100 or so professional beekeepers that operate in Queensland. Sites are used for both honey production and to provide areas for bees to recoup after providing pollinating services for various food and other crops.

Until recently, new sites on State forest in the Western Hardwoods region had been authorised on a temporary basis only in line with the previous government's agenda of locking up State forests.

Under my direction, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has now converted these temporary sites to permanent apiary sites on what will now remain as multiple-use State forest.

In addition, the department will continue to co-operate with beekeepers to identify and establish additional State forest sites across Queensland where honey flora and access arrangements are suitable and where beekeeping is compatible with other local land uses.

As a matter of urgency, the government, through the Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing, is working to review apiary sites impacted by the South East Queensland Forests Agreement and Statewide Forests Process, and to establish arrangements to ensure beekeepers will retain the same level of access to apiary sites as they did prior to those forest transfer processes.

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

No. 10

Asked on 27 September 2012

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

I refer to SDS 5 - 3 of Service Delivery Statements. Can the Minister advise what steps are being taken to redress the identified shortage of skilled and semi-skilled farm workers in Queensland?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is committed to building the workforce planning capacity of Queensland's agricultural industries to address their priority skills needs.

The Government has invested \$500,000 to develop a horticulture workforce plan. This will result in an industry-focused, industry-led and industry-owned plan of attack to address the critical issues of attracting, retaining and developing appropriately skilled workers in Queensland's horticultural production areas.

The Government will also invest \$3 million over the next three years to redress skill shortages by improving training outcomes in conjunction with industry, universities, registered training organisations and schools.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), as the current Queensland Agriculture Industry Skills Body, recently undertook a review of current and future agricultural skill needs, as well as a review of the current apprenticeship/traineeship system. Findings from these reviews identified four activities that DAFF will also undertake to improve skilling shortages. These include:

- promote the revised list of traineeships/apprenticeships to employers in agriculture, and work with the Department of Education, Training and Employment (DETE) to promote the uptake of agricultural apprenticeships and traineeships in schools;
- collaborate with registered training organisations to develop 'fit-for-purpose' skill-sets that will help overcome identified skill shortages of farm workers in Queensland;
- influence DETE to increase funding for agriculture apprenticeships and traineeships; and
- implement strategies to improve employment pathways between school, vocational education and training and tertiary sectors within agriculture training.

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

No. 1

Asked on 27 September 2012

MS TRAD asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

I refer to page 12 of the SDS will the Minister advise (a) on what basis was the service standard of proportion of stakeholders who have a high level of satisfaction with the department's consultative and engagement process set (b) how was it calculated and any changes to its methodology in 2012-13 (c) why is there an estimated 8% decline in high level of satisfaction, and (d) advise what are the 24 proposed consultative and engagement forums to be held with industry and community stakeholders in 2012-13?

ANSWER:

- (a) This service standard was developed under the former Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI). Several former-DEEDI service areas contributed to this service area, including the former Science, Agriculture, Food and Regional Services (SAFRS).

The intent of this service standard was to target the quality of consultation and engagement processes by assessing the level of satisfaction that participating stakeholders have with these processes.

The SAFRS target for this service standard in 2011-12 was set as a percentage range of 70-80%. This service standard and target was part of the suite of measures transitioned to the Agriculture and Forestry service area within the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. The Agriculture and Forestry service area has set a single figure target of 75% for this service standard in 2012-13.

For all service standards where the Target/Estimate previously reflected a range of percentages, under DAFF there is now a single specified value.

- (b) Data for this service standard is sourced from a range of survey processes.

Data is converted to a standard set of values (with 1 being 'very poor' to 5 being 'excellent'). The service standard result or 'actual' is calculated as the proportion of results rating 3 or more from the total number of received responses.

There has been no change in the calculation methodology for this service standard in 2012-13.

- (c) For 2012-13 the Target/Estimate for this service standard is 75%. This target is in the same range as the Target/Estimate for 2011-12.
- (d) The Agriculture and Forestry service area has set a Target/Estimate of 24 consultative and engagement forums with industry and community stakeholders for 2012-13. These forums include:

- Ministerial forums that I require in response to emerging events and significant Government commitments;
- Beef Industry Roundtables that I host with Leading Beef Industry participants, one of which will be co-hosted by the Federal Government with Industry and Government stakeholders;
- Horticulture Management Advisory Committee forums to ensure the ongoing growth and prosperity of the Queensland horticulture industry; and
- Forums throughout north and central regions in relation to agricultural strategies, supply chains, best practice and extension to ensure ongoing growth and prosperity of Queensland's Agricultural Industry.
- As Minister, I meet and consult widely with primary producers and industry groups who overwhelmingly support the LNP Government's decision to create a true, standalone Department focussed on frontline services – services that actually deliver the services that farmers need.

This compares with the former Government that buried the former DPI and its staff in a homogenised super department – which lacked any clear goals and leadership, happy to waste scarce resources on PR and spin and programs with no real outcomes that actually helped farmers.

DAFF, under the LNP, is being restructured to focus strongly on production – to help Queensland farmers' double production by 2040.

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

No. 2

Asked on 27 September 2012

MS TRAD asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

I refer to page 84 of Budget Paper 2 and page 9 of the SDS. Will the Minister advise (a) how many positions (broken down by permanent, temporary, casual and contract) have been abolished since 26 March 2012 in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and statutory bodies under the Minister's authority, listed by job title, salary level and location and/or departmental region, (b) what number of FTEs have been allocated to the four service areas of the department in 2011-12 estimated actual and by region compared with the 2012-13 estimated again by service area and region.

ANSWER:

(a) The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry SDS staffing table estimates a reduction of 409 Full-time Equivalent (FTE) staff during 2012-13. The specific positions to be reduced across the department in 2012-13 have yet to be finalised as the department works with staff and stakeholders to transition services.

There have been a total of 37 positions abolished in the department between 26 March 2012 and 30 June 2012. These are summarised below and detailed in the attached Appendix in list form:

Abolished positions between 26 March and 30 June 2012				
Business Area	Position status			Grand Total
	Permanent	Temporary	Casual	
Agri-Science Queensland	2		25	27
Biosecurity Queensland			1	1
Corporate		9		9
Grand Total	2	9	26	37

Note:

- Figures do not include positions where staff have separated but positions are yet to be abolished.
- Figures do not include positions that have been identified as surplus, but employees have not yet left the department.
- As DAFF staff are aligned across a number of payroll systems, further positions may be identified and abolished as part of the payroll systems migration process.

In the SDS Staffing Table (page 9), there is a reduction of 273 Full-time equivalents (FTEs) between the 2011-12 Estimated Actual budget and the 2011-12 Adjusted Budget. This reduction includes the positions abolished above, as well as Voluntary Separation Program exits, redundancies, contract terminations, retirements and resignations that occurred prior to 26 March 2012.

There have been no positions abolished within the statutory bodies under the Minister's authority since 26 March 2012:

- Safe Food Production Queensland (SFPQ) – Nil positions have been abolished and SFPQ is operating with three vacancies.

- Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA) – Nil positions have been abolished. QRAA will continue to review employment arrangements to ensure appropriate staffing resources are available to meet flexible workloads associated with programs being administered.
- Australian Agricultural College Corporation (AACC) – Nil positions have been abolished.

(b) The 2011-12 estimated actual number of FTEs allocated to the four service areas of the department (as at 29 June 2012) is 2,357 FTEs, of which 1,855 (almost 80% of the total FTEs) are located in the regions.

The 2012-13 estimate of FTEs allocated to the four service areas of the department is 1,948 FTEs, which includes a proportional estimate of 1,542 FTEs located in the regions.

2011-12 Estimated actual FTEs by service area and region						
Sum of Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	Number of FTEs					Grand Total
	Brisbane CBD	South East	South	Central	North	
Agriculture And Food	131	69	125	62	63	450
Agri-Science Queensland	76	331	244	54	138	843
Biosecurity Queensland	175	335	101	29	140	780
Fisheries Queensland	118	58	15	23	70	284
Grand Total	500	793	485	168	411	2357

2012-13 Estimated FTEs by service area and region						
Sum of Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	Number of FTEs					Grand Total
	Brisbane CBD	South East	South	Central	North	
Agriculture And Food	103	55	99	49	50	356
Agri-Science Queensland	67	288	212	47	120	734
Biosecurity Queensland	142	272	82	24	112	632
Fisheries Queensland	94	46	12	18	56	226
Grand Total	406	661	405	138	338	1948

Note:

- Figures above include proportionate corporate allocation across the service areas but do not include corporate staff aligned to DAFF who provide services to other departments as part of the Corporate Partnership.
- The 2012-13 estimated regional FTEs are based on the current proportion of staff in the regions.

Appendix

Position Description	Position Status	Pay Scale Group	Location
Laboratory Technician	Permanent	TO3	Coopers Plains
Project Officer	Permanent	AO3	Gympie
Scientific Assistant	Casual	OO2	Toowoomba
Senior Horticulturalist	Casual	PO4	Bowen R.S.
Technical Officer	Casual	TO2	St Lucia
Farm Hand	Casual	OO2	Biloela
Technical Officer	Casual	TO2	Eagle Farm
Farmhand	Casual	OO2	Biloela
Farmhand	Casual	OO2	Biloela R.S.
Farm Hand	Casual	OO2	Biloela R.S.
Farm Hand	Casual	OO2	Biloela R.S.
Farm Hand	Casual	OO2	Biloela R.S.
Farm Hand	Casual	OO2	Biloela R.S.
Senior Plant Breeder	Casual	PO4	Hermitage R.S
Scientific Assistant	Casual	OO2	Hermitage R.S
Scientific Assistant	Casual	OO2	Hermitage R.S
Scientific Assistant	Casual	OO2	Biloela R.S.
Scientific Assistant	Casual	OO2	Hermitage R.S
Scientific Assistant	Casual	OO2	Warwick
Technical Officer	Casual	TO2	Dutton Park
Scientific Assistant	Casual	OO2	Toowoomba
Air Quality Assessor	Casual	OO2	Toowoomba
Air Quality Assessor	Casual	OO2	Toowoomba
Scientific Assistant	Casual	OO4	Toowoomba
Entomologist	Casual	PO6	Toowoomba
Research Scientist	Casual	PO2	Toowoomba
Pasture Agronomist	Casual	PO4	Toowoomba
Customer Service Officer	Casual	AO3	Brisbane
Senior Project Communications Officer	Temporary	AO6	Brisbane
Principal Information Officer - Strategy	Temporary	AO7	Brisbane
Project Support Officer	Temporary	AO3	Brisbane
Information Specialist (Digital)	Temporary	AO5	Brisbane
Principal Policy Officer	Temporary	AO7	Brisbane
Project Officer (Ri&Ip)	Temporary	AO6	Brisbane
Project Manager	Temporary	AO8	Brisbane
Web Developer	Temporary	AO7	Brisbane
Senior Web Projects Officer Web Services	Temporary	AO7	Brisbane

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

No. 3

Asked on 27 September 2012

MS TRAD asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

I refer to page 84 of Budget Paper 2 and page 9 of the SDS and ask the Minister to provide information in list format of every work unit, branch and/or division that has been abolished within his department, and statutory bodies under his authority, and the number of staff positions contained within each abolished work area, as part of the process of developing the 2012-13 State Budget?

ANSWER:

Because of the totally unsustainable debt left by the previous Bligh-Fraser Labor government of \$65 billion, the LNP Newman Government has been forced to find savings across government.

In the new, standalone Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry all program areas and spending priorities have been reviewed.

With consultation and input from key stakeholder groups we have made common sense changes that retain and bolster essential programs for Queensland primary industry producers to help them increase production.

Other, non-essential and lower-priority programs have been reduced or ceased and unrealistic and un-funded undertakings from the previous government, notably the Townsville vet lab moving to JCU, have been dropped with animal disease testing to be centralised at the Coopers Plain lab.

Services such as 'Wormbuster' that are available commercially have ceased.

In a leaner and farm more focussed Department, as of 23 September 2012, no work units, branches or divisions have been abolished in DAFF or statutory bodies.

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

No. 4

Asked on 27 September 2012

MS TRAD asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

I refer to page 6 of the SDS and expenses for the Agri-Science Queensland service. What is the latest value estimate for the gross value of production for the sugar, horticulture, beef, grains, life-style horticulture and seafood industries respectively? What is the estimated Queensland Government expense for research and development for each of these industries in 2012-13 reported separately?

ANSWER:

The latest estimates of the 2011-12 gross value of production of key agricultural industries are:

- Sugar - \$1.15 billion
- Horticulture - \$2.36 billion
- Beef - \$3.24 billion
- Grains - \$0.76 billion
- Cotton - \$0.93 billion
- Lifestyle horticulture \$1.14 billion
- Seafood (comprising fisheries and aquaculture) - \$0.35 billion.

The 2012-13 budget for agricultural RD&E has not yet been finalised. However, it is expected to total approximately \$100 million.

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

No. 5

Asked on 27 September 2012

MS TRAD asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

I refer to page 6 of the SDS and the estimated expenditure for Biosecurity Queensland. How much of this sum will be allocated separately to plant and animal industry preparedness activities, plant and animal response activities and technical support for these two industry groupings?

ANSWER:

Biosecurity Queensland is at the front line in protecting Queensland's primary industries from significant pests and diseases.

For animal activities: approximately \$1.219 million will be put towards preparedness including preparing for emergency responses such as Hendra virus; \$1.176 million towards response activities currently primarily around responding to tick incursions; \$1.354 million in technical support by our front line veterinarians; \$8.371 million for our front line inspectors; and \$10.340 million for our laboratory staff, to ensure key services are delivered to producers.

For plant activities: In 2012-13, \$1.433 million has been allocated to preparedness activities such as response planning, risk analysis and risk assessment, and stakeholder education and awareness; \$1.885 million has been allocated to plant pest and disease response activities including responses to incursions of Asian honey bee, myrtle rust, cocoa pod borer and exotic fruit fly in the Torres Strait; \$0.980 million has been allocated to technical support activities such as plant pest and disease diagnostics and provision of specialist scientific advice; and \$4.646 million has been allocated to front line operational activities such as inspections, investigations and surveillance.

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

No. 6

Asked on 27 September 2012

MS TRAD asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

I refer to page 12 of the SDS. What performance indicators have been developed to ensure that the Government is on track to deliver on its commitment to double agriculture production by 2040 and how the government's investment in RD&E has directly contributed to this growth?

ANSWER:

Under the LNP Government, agriculture is one of the four pillars of the Queensland economy.

We have set an ambitious target to double agriculture production by 2040 to meet growing global demand for food, fibre and other products, and return agriculture as one of the four pillars of the Queensland economy.

Our progress in achieving this target will be monitored through the "Prospects for Queensland Primary Industries" report for Queensland. This report examines gross value of production forecasts for each of Queensland's major commodities, as well as forecasts for first-round processing activities.

The main edition of 'Prospects' contains initial forecasts for the financial year and is due to be released in October to allow the inclusion of figures from Winter crops. Subsequent editions of the 'Prospects update' will continue to be 6 monthly.

To support the growth of agriculture in Queensland we are investing an additional \$7.6 million in research, development and extension initiatives to build on our strengths and capitalise on emerging opportunities.

We are investing \$3 million in rebuilding research and development capacity of the new stand-alone Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

We recently signed the Memorandum of Understanding with BSES Limited to provide \$4.6 million in funding for targeted sugar industry research to increase yield, productivity, efficiency, sustainability and diversification opportunities.

In addition, we are continuing our investments in the Spyglass Research Centre near Charters Towers, which is set to become Australia's premier beef research facility.

A further \$4.8 million will be invested in emerging tropical pulses research through the Queensland University of Technology to position Queensland as a leading exporter to Asia and provide developing countries with a source of cost-effective protein.

These major investments in research, development and extension will support the long term growth of efficient, innovative and profitable agriculture in Queensland which will in turn contribute to our target to double production by 2040.

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

No. 7

Asked on 27 September 2012

MS TRAD asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

I refer to table 5.4 on page 88 of Budget Paper 2, which shows a decrease in current grants funding by the Queensland Government in 2012-13. Will the Minister list all grant funding allocations that have been cut by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and statutory bodies under the Minister's authority for non-government and community organisations and projects (including businesses and local government) in the 2012-13 State Budget, listed in the same format as used by the Health Minister in response to Question on Notice 445?

ANSWER:

The previous Bligh-Fraser Labor government left Queenslanders with an unsustainable debt of \$65 billion. The LNP Newman Government has been forced to find savings across government to get Queensland back on track.

As part of the financial and structural changes the government is making to the public sector, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has realised cost savings in grant funding allocations which are no longer consistent with the government's priorities. The Department will continue to work with community and industry groups to find alternative ways in which support can be provided.

The list of grant funding allocations which have been subject to cost saving measures are as follows:

Organisation	Project	2012-2013 (\$ excl GST)	End Date
Contestable grant program, which was cancelled before applications were assessed.	Food Innovation and Productivity Incentive grant program.	\$1.250 million	30 June 2014
Primary producers	Drought Relief Assistance Scheme	\$1 million	Ongoing
AgForce	AgForward Coal Seam Gas Landholder Support Initiative	\$0.636 million	Grant ceasing as at 30 June 2012 Program completion 30 June 2013
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	Queensland government contribution to the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	\$0.375 million	Grant ceasing as at 30 June 2012
Fish Stocking Groups	Recreational Fishing Enhancement Program for freshwater fingerlings	\$0.133 million	Grant ceasing as at 30 June 2012
Queensland Seafood Industry Association	Operating expenses for engagement and consultation with the commercial fishing sector.	\$0.125 million	Grant ceasing as at 30 June 2012
Sunfish Queensland	Operating expenses for engagement and consultation with the recreational fishing	\$0.213 million	Grant ceasing as at

	sector and Kids Fishing Clinics		30 June 2012
Australian National Sportfishing Association	Contribution towards \$400,000 fish tagging program.	\$0.055 million	Grant ceasing as at 30 June 2012

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

No. 8

Asked on 27 September 2012

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

Can the Minister provide a detailed report on the cost associated with relocating the Townsville Biosecurity Sciences Lab to Coopers Plains comparative to the cost of retaining and upgrading the existing Oonoonba Facility?

ANSWER:

As the member would be aware, the Oonoonba site was sold by the former Bligh-Fraser Labor Government.

The former Labor government did give an undertaking to re-locate the vet lab at Oonoonba to a site at James Cook University. However there was no budget allocation made. There was no money, nor was there a plan to retain and upgrade the existing Oonoonba facility.

The site occupied by the Oonoonba Veterinary Faculty is owned by the Urban Land Development Authority and was purchased for residential development.

Local government approval for an upgraded laboratory facility in a developing residential area would be unlikely to get approval and has not therefore been estimated.

Estimates for relocating the functions of the Tropical and Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory at Oonoonba to Coopers Plains, including staff and equipment is \$200,000.

There is space available for laboratory upgrades at Coopers Plains. Formal estimates are yet to be made however it is expected to be less than \$2 million.

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

No. 9

Asked on 27 September 2012

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

Can the Minister advise on increases to the Far North Queensland Biosecurity operational budget to account for the considerable costs associated with freighting live samples to the Coopers Plains facility or does the State Government intend to pass these cost increases on to primary producers in Far North Queensland?

ANSWER:

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will provide ongoing support to producers and livestock industries in north Queensland. This will include providing, at no cost, front line veterinary support for significant disease incidents including in-field collection of samples, dispatch and laboratory testing.

For other diagnostic testing, the government provides a comprehensive veterinary disease diagnostic service to the livestock industries of Queensland at no charge to the submitter. The cost of transport of these specimens to the laboratory for testing is the responsibility of the submitter as part of the shared contribution for enhancing and maintaining the health of Queensland's livestock industries.

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

No. 10

Asked on 27 September 2012

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

The Tropical Weeds Research Centre in Charters Towers has been closed and the Minister has publicly stated that positions were made redundant ‘due to the completion of projects’.

Can the Minister advise what projects were completed at the Tropical Weeds Research Centre and provide the publications or outcomes resulting from vital research being conducted by sacked research staff?

ANSWER:

The Tropical Weeds Research Centre in Charters Towers has not been closed.

To achieve Government budget savings and deliver more frontline services, investment in invasive pest research has been reduced. A number of invasive pest scientists and support staff are being retained at the Centre to enable research to continue.

In total, five staff from the Centre have been offered voluntary redundancies and are likely to be leaving over the coming months. Two of the officers provide research support, two are weed scientists and one is a pest animal scientist.

Two long term research studies on the declared weeds, bellyache bush and yellow oleander were recently completed.

The bellyache bush work has been published in nine science articles and a National Bellyache Bush Management Manual. Two remaining aspects are being finalised for publication. This research has proved highly beneficial for those managing this recently declared Weed of National Significance.

Key findings of the yellow oleander research will be incorporated into information fact sheets prior to the departure of staff.

One long term weed study is ongoing, with a proportion of the work now complete. A revised sampling strategy will enable completion of the remaining work using reduced resources. The findings will be incorporated into weed management guides and fact sheets as they become available.

The pest animal scientist has been investigating feral pig impacts in northern Queensland and ways to improve their management. This work is largely completed with findings published in several scientific papers and a Dry Tropics Feral Pig Best Practice Management Manual that was compiled in 2011.

Work contributing to an Australian Government project on the effectiveness of pest animal control in protecting vegetation habitats is underway. This work will continue until late January 2013 to meet project commitments.

All future pest animal research will be co-ordinated from the Robert Wicks Pest Animal Research Centre in Toowoomba. Through this Centre, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is a participant of the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre and will continue to access the capacity and expertise of this national network.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

No. 1

asked on Friday, 28 September 2012

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)—

QUESTION:

In tight fiscal times, can the Minister outline how this Government will continue to protect Queensland's environment?

ANSWER:

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection is contributing significantly to the fiscal recovery of the State by implementing a range of savings measures totalling \$93.9 million in 2012-13. These savings do not reflect a reduction in front-line services. Rather, they have been arrived at through re-positioning of the department's policy, priorities and business practices to achieve efficiency dividends and strip away green tape. These changes will increase the department's ability to deliver priority environmental protection, in particular by regulating industry operations to ensure that they are meeting the environmental standards and outcomes that Queenslanders expect.

In order to ensure the continued and improved protection of Queensland's natural environment, the department is developing a regulatory strategy that will ensure that environmental assessments focus on setting outcomes, not prescribing how outcomes are achieved; and where companies do not meet environmental standards the community expects from them, the full force of the law will be used as a strong deterrent. In addition, re-focusing the priorities of existing programs—such as introduction of targeted approaches to auditing and compliance activities under the Nature Refuges program—will allow for better outcomes.

This Government will continue to protect the environment in tight fiscal times by delivering environmental services that are more efficient through the merging of related functions, realignment of the priorities of existing programs, and reduction of administrative burden. This will ensure that finite resources support those front-line services where the Government can deliver the most environmental benefit.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

No. 2

asked on Friday, 28 September 2012

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister provide details on the number of staff that have been made redundant, what work units have been reduced and the department's savings?

ANSWER:

In April 2012 the government made decisions to close a number of climate related programs in the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. This resulted in 34 voluntary redundancies being offered to Office of Climate Change employees. 16 employees accepted the offer and exited the department and 18 were placed into other positions.

Since then, the Service Delivery Statement (SDS) identifies that 220 Full Time Equivalents (FTE) positions will be made redundant. This process will occur during the 2012-13 financial year.

Offers of voluntary redundancy are being made in a staged process and there is always a time lag between when an employee accepted a voluntary redundancy and when they exit the department. Obviously, savings are not realised until after an employee exits the public service.

By 5 October 2012, 201 letters offering voluntary redundancy had been given to employees. This count of 201 includes offers made to Office of Climate Change employees. 157 employees who have received an offer have accepted the offer. 21 employees were yet to respond to their offer and 23 employees had rejected their offer and elected to become an Employee Requiring Placement (ERP). Of the 23 employees who elected to become an ERP, 19 have been placed into permanent positions. 4 remained unplaced.

The offers of voluntary redundancies (VR) have been made across the department. As at 5 October 2012, the breakdown of VR offers by division is as follows:

- 29 in Environmental Policy and Planning;
- 36 in Conservation and Sustainability Services;
- 34 in Office of Climate Change (a former division)
- 64 in Environmental Services and Regulation; and
- 38 in Corporate Services.

The offers have been spread across business units within each of these divisions as detailed in the following table.

Table 1: Offers made per business unit

Division	Business Unit	No. of offers
Environmental Policy and Planning	Ecosystem Outcomes	2
	Environmental Planning	6
	Heritage	2
	Policy Projects	1
	Waste Avoidance & Resource Efficiency	11
	Water Information & Quality	1
	NRM Programs & Policy	6
	TOTAL	29
Conservation and Sustainability Services	Ecosystem Outcomes	4
	Environment Strategy & Policy	3
	Policy & Programs	12
	Employees who transitioned from Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services (mostly sustainable landscapes employees)	16
	Land Management and Use	1
	TOTAL	36
Office of Climate Change (former division)	Office of Climate Change	34
	TOTAL	34
Environmental Services and Regulation	Environment & Natural Resource Regulation	20
	Environment Performance & Co-ordination	1
	Implementation & Support	1
	Regional Service Delivery	38
	South East Region	4
	TOTAL	64
Corporate Services	Corporate Communications	15
	Executive & Administrative Services	2
	Governance & Strategy	2
	Human Resources	5
	Business Services	13
	Directorate	1
	TOTAL	38

A projected reduction of 220 FTEs is anticipated to deliver budget savings of \$9.7M in employee expenses in 2012-13. \$9.7M represents the part year savings only. In out years, 220 FTEs will deliver around \$18.5M in savings.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

No. 3

asked on Friday, 28 September 2012

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister explain how this government is assisting farmers to take greater control over flying foxes that are affecting crops?

ANSWER:

Crop growers are now able to apply for permits to shoot limited numbers of flying-foxes under new laws introduced by the Queensland Government.

These new laws are about giving greater control to farmers over managing their crops while striking a balance with animal welfare and conservation considerations.

The new laws have been developed with input from growers, conservationists and animal welfare advocates.

The legislative framework includes amendments to regulations and a new code of practice which identifies how flying-foxes can be controlled to make sure that good ecological sustainability and welfare standards are met.

The code of practice sets out a range of things that growers must do when shooting flying-foxes to make sure the animals are killed with minimal pain or suffering.

It sets strict requirements that growers must meet to be eligible for a permit, including that they have previously tried, and will continue to use, non-harmful methods of deterring flying-foxes.

A limited quota has also been agreed with the Commonwealth Government to ensure there will be no impact on the long term survival of the four flying-fox species that can damage crops.

The new code of practice is available on the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's website along with the necessary permit application forms and a fact sheet providing further information for growers.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

No. 4

asked on Friday, 28 September 2012

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister explain how his department is working with communities like Charters Towers and Mount Isa to address flying fox roosts?

ANSWER:

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection is continuing to work closely and collaboratively with local government on flying-fox roost management.

Mt Isa provides an excellent example of the progress that is being made in this area. Departmental officers met with Mount Isa's Mayor on 14 September 2012 to discuss solutions to the annual visitation of large numbers of little red flying-foxes to the town area. A positive outcome of this meeting was that local mining entity Xstrata has agreed to make an area of land on their mine lease available for development of an alternative roost site.

With the capacity for such an area to be irrigated, fast growing trees can be planted to establish an alternative roost site in the medium term. Council is working with Xstrata to progress this option. Once this alternative roost is established, flying-foxes can be encouraged to the site while being discouraged from returning to the town under a damage mitigation permit. During the meeting, departmental officers also approved the trimming of certain limbs from the roost trees in the cemetery to address public safety concerns. This work has now been completed.

The department frequently liaises with Charters Towers Regional Council to assist in the management of the flying-fox roost in Lissner Park. Council currently holds two damage mitigation permits. One to disperse flying-foxes if they begin roosting in the vicinity of the swimming pool or the children's playground and the other to trim trees for both public safety and for the health of the trees in other areas of the park. Council is also reviewing proposals from consultants to develop alternative roost habitat along Gladstone Creek. This would form part of a longer term strategy to relocate the roost.

Since this government came to power the department has approved eight damage mitigation permits to manage flying-fox roosts. These permits vary from giving approval to completely disperse the roost to allowing strategic vegetation trimming.

Trimming vegetation near residents or facilities is an obvious way to reduce the impact of roosting animals.

The department is also reviewing the approvals process for managing flying-fox roosts to reduce green tape and to allow a rapid response in the event of flying-foxes commencing to roost in a new area which is unsuitable in respect to community impacts.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

No. 5

asked on Friday, 28 September 2012

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister explain how the Newman Government has taken action to enhance public safety by improving crocodile management in North Queensland?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is committed to improving crocodile management to enhance community safety. To this end, the government has dedicated over \$1.5 million over the next four years to implement this commitment through the development of a crocodile management policy consistent with the successful Northern Territory's three-tiered approach that strikes a balance between community safety and crocodile conservation.

Implementation of the crocodile management policy has been initiated through the commencement of a pilot program for the Cairns, Townsville, Hinchinbrook and Cassowary Coast areas. Critical local knowledge provided by the four involved local government authorities involved will be used to guide the application of the new policy to these areas before rolling it out across the accepted range of the estuarine crocodile in Queensland.

While no natural waterway can be entirely risk free, under the pilot program areas will be managed for either:

- Exclusion — where the aim is to prevent crocodiles from entering an area so that the level of risk is low enough to recommend safe swimming and water activities:
- Zero tolerance — where efforts to significantly reduce the risk of attack will be made by removing any crocodiles that enter the area, such as boat ramps and marinas in risk areas: and
- Removal of crocodiles anywhere if the animals exhibits unprovoked aggressive behaviour towards humans.

Under this policy, the Queensland Government will also engage crocodile farmers or zoos to remove animals identified as crocodiles of concern where it is practical to do so.

Local crocodile management plans will be developed for the four areas within the pilot area for the coming summer period. Councils' local knowledge of the issues in

their areas is critical to getting the balance right, and the department is collaborating with these councils right now to ensure that the crocodile management plans can be practically implemented out there on the ground and can be resourced in the long term.

A new scientific baseline for the abundance and distribution of estuarine crocodile populations in Queensland will also be established to inform future crocodile management. In order to ensure the government is operating with the best possible science, an independent scientific review of the current Queensland estuarine crocodile survey data and methodology will initially be undertaken.

In the meantime, our wildlife rangers remain vigilant in responding to circumstances where crocodiles may present a threat to public safety.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

No. 6

asked on Friday, 28 September 2012

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister explain the steps the Newman Government is taking to protect koalas particularly in South East Queensland?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is taking real and practical action to conserve our koala populations by adopting a range of measures to ensure the long-term protection of koalas and their habitat.

Queensland's koalas are under significant pressure, particularly in the south-east corner. Koala populations have declined by over fifty per cent in some areas since 2006, primarily as a result of habitat loss and fragmentation, disease, dog attacks and vehicle strikes.

To address the causes of koala population decline, the *Investing to protect our koalas* policy will invest \$26.5 million to acquire koala habitat, support research into koala disease and preventable causes of death, injury and illness and enhance koala rescue and rehabilitation services.

The first initiative under this policy, the Koala Habitat Program, is now open. This program is investing up to \$22.5 million over the next three years for the purchase of suitable properties in south east Queensland to be rehabilitated for koala habitat.

Properties will need to meet a range of criteria to ensure purchased sites can provide a high level of koala conservation outcomes, such as contributing to connectivity or consolidating koala habitat. Purchased properties will undergo rehabilitation and may be gazetted as national parks, nature refuges or reserves for community use and there will be recreational opportunities wherever possible.

The Queensland Government recognises, however, that threats to koala's wellbeing are far broader than habitat loss and \$4 million will also be provided for research and koala rescue and rehabilitation services.

The Koala Research Grants will fund high quality research into koala diseases and other preventable causes of death, injury and illness. Funding of \$3.2 million will be

available over the next four years for research projects that can provide tangible outcomes to better inform koala management

The Koala Rescue and Rehabilitation Grants will soon be available to organisations that provide a valuable service to the community through their work with sick, injured and orphaned koalas in Queensland. Funding of \$800,000 over the next four years will be available to support the important work of koala rescue and rehabilitation services.

These initiatives will ensure the long-term future of Queensland's koala population, while achieving a balance between the protection of koalas, economic development and the social wellbeing of Queensland communities.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

No. 7

asked on Friday, 28 September 2012

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister explain how the Newman Government will deliver strong environmental management that supports sustainable economic development on Cape York?

ANSWER:

Cape York is home to iconic environmental values and the Queensland Government is focused on protecting these values while supporting economic development that can deliver jobs and business opportunities for the region.

To this end, the government has begun to prepare a statutory regional plan as the primary planning instrument, accompanied by economic, infrastructure and bioregion management planning frameworks for Cape York. This planning approach recognises the special values in the Cape, including the environmental values represented in the region's extensive national park estate.

The Cape York Plan will include actions for the improved management of the national parks on the Cape, respecting and supporting the role of Traditional Owners in developing management plans for parks under joint management arrangements.

It will also include a strategic framework for coordination of Natural Resource Management activities across Cape York Peninsula, including priorities for fire and pest management in the region.

The plans will be informed by submissions received on the Cape York Bioregion Management Plan scoping paper and by consultation with Traditional Owner and other groups across the Cape. Importantly, the statutory regional plan will be informed by the advice of the Regional Planning Committee, established by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, which includes representation of bodies with a key interest in protecting the environment and land management.

The Queensland Government is providing practical, on-the-ground support for better management of the Cape's environment through the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program. The government has boosted funding for the program, providing

and additional \$8 million in Cape York Peninsula over the next three years to support the employment of an additional 30 rangers. Rangers care for the area's pristine waterways and protected species, support national parks management and assist local communities in developing businesses based on environmental services.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

No. 8

asked on Friday, 28 September 2012

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister outline the ways in which cane and beef farmers can adopt sustainable land management practices and help to protect the reef and rebuild our four-pillar economy?

ANSWER:

The Great Barrier Reef is an important part of Queensland's extraordinary natural heritage. This is why the Queensland Government is committed to ensuring the Reef continues to be one of the best managed marine protected areas in the world. It is an international tourism icon supporting over 60,000 jobs and worth approximately \$6 billion yearly to our economy.

The Queensland Government is committed to the targets and outcomes of the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan signed originally by Prime Minister Howard and Premier Beattie in 2003. This commitment maintains the \$35 million per year investment in reef water quality and related initiatives.

With the election of the Newman Government earlier this year, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has commenced work with the beef and sugar industries to accelerate the transition from broad regulatory coverage to a best management practice (BMP) program. This approach is similar to that in the cotton and grains industries.

The industry-led BMP program will be supported by strong science and extension programs. The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will be ably assisting industry in the development and implementation of the BMP program.

Efforts to improve water quality to the Great Barrier Reef lagoon by industry uptake of best practice fertiliser calculation methods for sugarcane farmers and pasture condition improvement for cattle graziers will ultimately result in better water quality for the reef and increased profitability for many sugarcane farmers and cattle graziers.

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring that agriculture is a key economic priority, and to doubling food production by 2040. Industry-led BMP systems will facilitate a highly efficient, innovative, productive and world-leading cane-growing sector, and in doing so achieve long-term objectives for reef water quality protection.

The Queensland Government is supporting the grazing industry to become world leaders in sustainable agricultural production and land stewardship, and to achieve the long-term objectives for reef water quality protection. Many current aspects of regulated farm management, including monitoring, record-keeping and reporting, are considered to be key elements of industry best practice.

The department has commenced negotiations with industry groups, including CANEGROWERS, AgForce and the Fitzroy Basin Association about the development and implementation of BMP programs for the sugarcane and cattle grazing industries and it is expected a BMP framework will be in place by December 2012.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

No. 9

asked on Friday, 28 September 2012

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister explain how this Government is working to develop a sustainable CSG industry in Queensland?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government and the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection are committed to a sustainable Coal Seam Gas (CSG) industry.

An important part of achieving this is the department's administration of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* to regulate the potential impacts of this industry. This provides the basis for requiring high environmental standards of CSG operators. Some examples include the general prohibition on evaporation dams in all but exceptional circumstances and requirements on operators to proactively manage and monitor risks associated with hydraulic fracturing. The department also undertakes proactive monitoring of the environmental performance and impact of this industry.

Another element in developing a sustainable CSG industry is via the department's administration of the aspects of the *Water Act 2000* that require CSG producers to complete ongoing assessments, monitor their impacts on groundwater, and 'make good' any impacts of groundwater extraction on existing water users.

In the broader picture, the department will continue to work closely with other State agencies to ensure a comprehensive regulatory approach to groundwater management, land access and drinking water quality standards.

In managing for a sustainable CSG industry, the government also understands the importance of recognising the legitimate interests of landholders and local communities. One of the means for implementing this approach is via the current review of the CSG Water Management Policy. This policy, which provides guidance to industry and the community about how the CSG industry should sustainably manage the water that is produced through CSG extraction, is being reviewed to ensure it is consistent with the Government's policy priorities. A draft of this policy will be provided for public comment in mid October.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

No. 10

asked on Friday, 28 September 2012

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister outline the practical measures the Newman Government has taken to cut green tape and deliver boost the resources industry while maintaining high environmental standards?

ANSWER:

The resources industry, which includes the mining and petroleum sectors has benefited from a number of initiatives to cut green tape while maintaining high environmental standards.

Firstly, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has been working collaboratively with the resources sector on major reforms to the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* since 2010, with the legislative side of these reforms recently passed by Parliament in the *Environmental Protection (Greentape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2012*. This Act provides major benefits to the resources sector, including significant simplification of the legislation with removal of duplicate environmental management plan requirements, formal recognition of EIS documents as part of the application, and the ability to include all Environmental Protection Act approvals on the one environmental authority.

To support the legislative change, the department is working on standardising conditions and improving guidance material to help applicants to provide the necessary information in the application without additional information requests. This will speed up the approval process, increase certainty and consistency for mine operators, and reduce unnecessary regulatory burden by developing conditions that industry supports as being reasonable.

To further reduce the regulatory burden for the small scale miners, the department is partnering on a reform project with the Department of Natural Resources and Mines. This project is anticipated to see significant removal of green tape for the small scale opal and gem miners.

The department is also conducting an operational review of financial assurances. The project, which is strongly supported by industry groups, aims to ensure better

and more efficient administration through the provision of better information about when financial assurance is to be provided and a simpler method of calculation.

Other key initiatives include reviewing the CSG Water Management Policy, finalising the Manual for Regulated Dams for mines, developing standard conditions for small to medium exploration activities, preparing a guideline for the approved method of calculating residual risk payments, and streamlining and harmonising the generic terms of reference for environmental impact statements. Each one of these projects adds up to a benefit to the resources sector, simplifying their dealings with the department and helping them to meet environmental outcomes as easily as possible.

To be clear, none of these initiatives has resulted in a reduction of environmental standards. Instead, we have focussed on process improvements and administrative simplification to make sure that the efforts of the industry and the department are focussed on what matters – allowing the industry to grow while still meeting environmental standards that protect Queensland's environment.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

No. 1

asked on Thursday, 27 September 2012

MS TRAD ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)—

QUESTION:

I refer to page 43 of Budget Paper 4 and the \$15 million for the Industry Driven Waste Strategy. Can the Minister please provide a detailed breakdown of this funding including, (a) staffing costs, (b) capital expenditure and (c) any funds committed to outside agencies?

ANSWER:

The \$15 million for the Industry Driven Waste Strategy will support three core objectives: the waste policy and regulatory simplification program; the waste data and collection program; and the litter and illegal dumping program.

The waste policy and regulatory simplification program includes the development of an industry driven waste strategy, legislative amendments to finalise the levy repeal and front-line support for levy payment in the lead-up to final payment. The program will also complement the Greentape Reduction project in reviewing and streamlining regulation for the waste industry.

The waste data collection program includes the collection of statewide data on waste generation, disposal, and recycling; private sector intelligence for future investment in waste infrastructure; comparative statistics for local and state government recycling performance and will fulfil national reporting requirements.

The litter and illegal dumping program includes education and engagement with land managers; reactive compliance and enforcement; a proactive regional illegal dumping hot-spots project and development of litter and illegal dumping data and mapping.

The funding breakdown is as follows:

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Allocation	\$4.51M	\$3.51M	\$3.51M	\$3.51M
Staffing costs	\$1.9M	\$1.7M	\$1.7M	\$1.7M
Operational	\$1.21M	\$1.21M	\$1.21M	\$1.21M
Capital	\$0.8M	Nil	Nil	Nil
Depreciation	\$0.6M	\$0.6M	\$0.6M	\$0.6M
Funds for outside agencies	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

- (a) The following table indicates the ongoing staff profile for the Industry Driven Waste strategy across the three core deliverables.

Classification	FTE	Expenditure
SES2	0.4	\$66,986
AO8	3	\$386,037
AO7	4	\$468,992
AO6	3	\$313,899
AO5	3	\$276,513
PO3	1	\$90,626
AO3	1.5	\$106,344
TOTAL	15.9	\$1,709,397

The 2012-13 allocation also includes additional staff costs for three months to wind up the levy.

- (b) There is an allocation of \$800,000 in 2012-13 to provide enhancements to the Queensland Waste On-line Levy IT system to collect and report on data both, from and for, the waste sector.
- (c) No funds are committed to outside agencies.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

No. 2

asked on Thursday, 27 September 2012

MS TRAD ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)—

QUESTION:

I refer to Schedule 2 in the *Appropriation Bill 2012*, outlining the 2012-13 funding allocation for the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. Will the Minister list every work unit, branch and/or division that has been abolished within his department and the number of staff positions contained within each abolished work area, as part of the process of developing the 2012-13 State Budget?

ANSWER:

The Office of Climate Change is the only work unit within the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection to be abolished as part of the process of developing the 2012 – 2013 State Budget.

The Office of Climate Change is currently in the process of being disbanded. A total of 60 positions from the Office of Climate Change have been made redundant.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

No. 3

asked on Thursday, 27 September 2012

MS TRAD ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)—

QUESTION:

I refer to page 84 of Budget Paper 2 of the 2012-13 Budget. Will the Minister advise how many positions (broken down by permanent, temporary, casual and contract) have been abolished since 26 March 2012 in the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, listed by job title, salary level, unit or section, and location and/or departmental region?

ANSWER:

Page 84 of Budget Paper 2 of the 2012-13 Budget indicates 220 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Redundancies for this financial year. The figure in the budget paper does not include FTE redundancies between 26 March 2012 and the start of the current financial year.

This question has been answered in terms of FTE Redundancies offered to employees since 26 March 2012. Therefore it will not equate to the figure of 220 in the budget paper.

By 5 October 2012, 201 letters offering voluntary redundancy had been given to employees. 157 employees who have received an offer have accepted the offer. 21 employees were yet to respond to their offer and 23 employees elected to become an Employee Requiring Replacement (ERP). Of the 23 employees who elected to become an ERP, 19 have been placed in permanent positions. 4 employees remain unplaced.

The attached table indicates the position titles, classification and work locations broken down by permanent, temporary, casual and contract of the 157 voluntary redundancy offers that have been accepted as at 5 October 2012. Positions are abolished once employees exit the department.

Permanent or Temporary	Position Title	Position Level	Work Location	Division Title
Permanent	Principal Policy Officer	AO7	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Director	SO	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Director Sustainable Reconstruction	SO	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Principal Policy Officer	AO7	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Principal Policy Officer	AO8	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Principal Policy Officer	AO7	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Senior Communication Officer	AO6	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Principal Policy Officer	AO8	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Business Manager	AO5	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Director	SO	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Senior Policy Officer	AO6	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Principal Communication Officer	AO8	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Manager Sustainable Reconstruction	AO8	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Principal Policy Officer	AO6	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Business Manager	AO4	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Senior Policy Officer	AO6	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Senior Conservation Officer	PO3	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Director	SO	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Coordinator (Wild Rivers)	AO6	Cairns	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Team Leader	PO4	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Senior Nature Refuge Officer	AO5	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Program Coordinator	AO6	Gold Coast	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Senior Ranger	AO5	Rockhampton	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Extension Officer	AO4	Daisy Hill	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Principal Technical Officer	TO5	Atherton	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Senior Nature Refuge Officer	AO5	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Project Officer	AO4	Cairns	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Senior Nature Refuge Officer	AO5	Moggill	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Team Leader	AO7	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Principal Project Officer	PO5	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Principal Project Officer	PO4	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Manager	AO8	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Administration Officer	AO3	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Manager	AO8	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Manager	SO	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Senior Project Officer	AO5	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Project Officer	AO4	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Team Leader	AO7	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Team Leader	AO7	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Principal Project Officer	PO5	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Senior Project Officer	AO5	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Principal Planning Officer	AO7	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Principal Policy Officer	AO8	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Administration Officer	AO3	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Director	SO	Brisbane	Conservation and Sustainability Services
Permanent	Library Technican	TO3	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Senior Human Resources Officer	AO5	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Human Resources Officer	AO4	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	IT Officer	AO4	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Senior Administration Officer	AO5	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Administration Officer	AO3	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Senior Project Officer	AO5	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Executive Assistant	AO3	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Human Resources Officer	AO4	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Photographer	TO3	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Prncipal Communications Officer	AO7	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Manager	AO8	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Procurement Officer	AO3	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Project Officer (Fire Safety)	AO4	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Senior Web Developer	AO5	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	IT Officer	AO4	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Senior Graphic Designer	AO5	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Manager Business Servcies	AO8	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Project Officer	AO3	Brisbane	Corporate Services

Permanent	Administration Officer	AO2	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Human Resources Officer	AO4	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Senior Media Officer	AO5	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Manager	AO8	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Principal Media Officer	AO7	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Graphic Designer	TO3	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Manager	AO8	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Not on HRM	AO6	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Team Leader Business Services	AO6	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Manager	AO8	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Administration Officer	AO4	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Senior Information Management Officer	AO5	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Senior Human Resources Officer	AO6	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Manager	AO8	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Research Librarian	PO2	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Senior Client Services Librarian	PO4	Brisbane	Corporate Services
Permanent	Manager	AO8	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Principal Project Officer	AO6	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Project Officer	AO4	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Policy Officer	AO5	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Manager	AO8	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Director	SO	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Principal Project Officer	AO6	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Principal Policy Officer	PO5	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Senior Planning Officer	AO6	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Principal Policy Officer	PO4	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Project Manager	AO7	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Principal Project Officer	AO6	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Project Officer	AO4	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Senior Project Officer	AO5	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Senior District Advisor	AO4	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Administration Officer	AO3	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Executive Assistant	AO3	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Principal Heritage Officer	PO4	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Manager	AO8	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Senior Project Officer	AO5	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Project Officer	AO4	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Policy Officer	PO2	Cairns	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Project Director	SO	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Manager	AO8	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Project Support Officer	AO2	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Senior Administration Officer	AO4	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Principal Policy Officer	AO7	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Director	SO	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Senior Policy Officer	AO6	Brisbane	Environmental Policy & Planning
Permanent	Senior Planning Officer	PO3	Rockhampton	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Senior Administration Officer	AO5	Brisbane	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Administration Officer	AO2	Brisbane	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Administration Officer	AO3	Brisbane	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Lawyer	PO3	Brisbane	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Administration Officer	AO3	Rockhampton	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Environmental Officer	PO2	Mackay	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Principal Biodiversity Planning Officer	PO5	Townsville	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Administration Officer	AO3	Brisbane	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Principal Advisor	AO7	Mackay	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Principal Environmental Officer	PO4	Mackay	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Senior Project Officer	AO5	Brisbane	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Customer Service Officer	AO3	Brisbane	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Environmental Support Officer	AO3	Mackay	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Environmental Officer	PO2	Brisbane	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Principal Engineer	PO4	Woolloongabba	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Manager	AO7	Rockhampton	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Senior Scientist (Biodiversity)	PO4	Longreach	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Director	SO	Brisbane	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Detached Senior Environmental Officer	PO3	Whitsunday	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Administrative Officer	AO2	Brisbane	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Principal Environmental Officer	PO4	Townsville	Environmental Services & Regulation

Permanent	Project Manager	AO6	Townsville	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Senior Advisor	AO6	Brisbane	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Senior Technical Officer	TO3	Mackay	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Environmental Support Officer	AO3	Emerald	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Manager	AO6	Rockhampton	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Administration Officer	AO2	Charleville	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Senior Technical Officer	TO4	Cairns	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Senior Inspector	TO4	Toowoomba	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Administrative Officer	AO2	Cairns	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Senior Technical Officer	TO3	Townsville	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Principal Environmental Officer	AO6	Townsville	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Project Officer	AO4	Brisbane	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Principal Environmental Officer	AO6	Woolloongabba	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Senior Environmental Officer	PO3	Toowoomba	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Principal Environmental Officer	AO6	Woolloongabba	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Manager	AO7	Woolloongabba	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Senior Environmental Officer	PO3	Woolloongabba	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Administrative Officer	AO2	Brisbane	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Senior Environmental Officer	AO5	Caboolture	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Team Leader	AO7	Brisbane	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Executive Assistant	AO3	Brisbane	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Principal Environmental Officer	AO6	Woolloongabba	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Administration Officer	AO3	Woolloongabba	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Senior Environmental Officer	AO5	Caboolture	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Environmental Officer	AO4	Toowoomba	Environmental Services & Regulation
Permanent	Senior Inspector	TO4	Townsville	Environmental Services & Regulation

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 4

asked on Thursday, 27 September 2012

MS TRAD ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)—

QUESTION:

I refer to page 5 of the SDS and ask how many waste reduction projects, planned by local governments and notified to the Department of Environment and Heritage, have had funding cut or not provided? Has the Minister received legal advice on whether any compensation may be required for any works already undertaken?

ANSWER:

The Waste (Recycling) Infrastructure Grant Program was a program to support the increase in recycling capacity within Queensland through supporting investment in additional recycling infrastructure. This program was open to local government, industry and the community sector and was a competitive grant process. Applications closed on 5 April 2012. The grant program had 19 applications from local governments across south east and regional Queensland. At the time of the announcement of the repeal of the levy on 10 April 2012 and the cessation of the grant programs, no grant applications had been assessed or approved. As a competitive grant process, there was no guarantee that any or all of these applications would have been successful.

Other programs such the Local Government Weighbridge and Ancillary Equipment Grant program were targeted directly at local government and were to support the implementation of weighbridges, landfill fencing and signage, which would have provided broader support for waste management and reduction activities by local government. Under phase 2 of this program 33 local governments and two Aboriginal Shire Councils were supported with funding. All executed grant agreements at the time of the cessation of the programs have been honoured.

The legal advice sought has confirmed that the State is not liable to pay compensation for costs incurred in meeting legislative obligations. The *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* does not provide for compensation to operators in the event of the levy and certain obligations being repealed, irrespective of whether or not any works had been undertaken.

Grant funding was competitive, applying for a grant did not guarantee that a local government or any other applicant would have received funding. Therefore, the issue of compensation does not arise.

Where the department had executed grant agreements in place, the department has continued to honour these grant agreements.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES
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**ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE**

No. 5

asked on Thursday, 27 September 2012

MS TRAD ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)—

QUESTION:

I refer to table 5.4 on page 88 of Budget Paper 2, which shows a decrease in current grants funding by the Queensland Government in 2012-13. Will the Minister list all grant funding allocations that have been cut by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection for non-government and community organisations and projects (including businesses and local government) in the 2012-13 State Budget, listed in the same format as used by the Health Minister in response to Question on Notice 445?

ANSWER:

A number of specific savings measures were applied by the Department of Environment and Heritage in the 2012-13 Budget and the impact on grant funding for each program as a result of those savings measures are outlined in the attached table.

Funding under these programs are not generally provided as ongoing annual contributions to specific non-government organisations, community organisations, local governments or businesses, but are provided to successful applicants based on their meeting the relevant grant criteria. Grant recipients are liable to change during each funding round depending on the nature of the program.

It should be noted that ongoing annual contributions are provided to non-Government Conservation organisations managed through a grant payment to the Queensland Conservation Council. The grant funding available for this purpose remains unchanged in 2012-13 at \$415,000. In addition, the department provides \$75,000 annually for Queensland Conservation Council core funding.

In addition, the government has provided \$3 million for a new grants program titled Everyone's Environment Grants in 2012-13 with a \$12 million funding commitment over three years.

Project / Program	Recipient Organisation	2012-13 Savings (\$ Excl GST)	End Date
Waste Avoidance and Efficiency Fund	Various, including business, local government and community organisations.	34,181,000	Was being funded through the industry waste levy which was repealed from 1 July 2012
Local Government Sustainable Futures Fund	Local Government Association of Queensland	10,000,000	Was being funded through the industry waste levy which was repealed from 1 July 2012
Queensland Sustainable Energy Innovation Fund	Various (4 recipients in 2011-12)	440,000	This program ceased from 30 June 2012 and no new applications are being taken. In some cases, funding of existing contractual commitments to recipients is being negotiated to ensure optimum value for investment.
EcoBiz Program	Various, industry associations (7 recipients in 2011-12); Business leaders through business efficiency clusters (32 recipients in 2011-12)	76,000	This program is scaled back from 30 June 2012 with no new applications being taken. All existing contractual commitments to recipients will be funded.
Miscellaneous Grant Funding	Nil. Funds allocated for one off grants and sponsorships but not allocated to any recipient	1,082,000	Funding availability ceased from 30 June 2012

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES
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**ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE**

No. 6

asked on Thursday, 27 September 2012

MS TRAD ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)—

QUESTION:

I refer to page 60 of the Capital Statement and ask which regions of Queensland, reported by locality, are currently being identified and prioritised for acquisition by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, advise of their environmental and/or biodiversity significance and a breakdown of projected cost?

ANSWER:

Acquisition priorities are set using a number of criteria. The primary objectives are to improve the comprehensiveness, adequacy and representativeness of the reserve system and ensure it delivers appropriate economic and social benefits for the public.

Broadscale adequacy of the protected area system will ensure large enough areas of a range of habitats are conserved to allow for ecological viability and resilience and preservation of plant and animal species. At the level of individual parks, reducing the management cost of protected areas is a particularly important consideration. The consolidation of fragmented areas and improving management boundaries are important priorities. This is for both conservation reasons and improving the capacity to manage areas efficiently, for example to manage wildfire and feral animals.

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring that its' acquisition program supports sound and efficient management of the overall estate as well as maximising opportunities for public use of these public lands.

Other considerations that dictate where acquisitions will occur include landholder willingness to sell, conflicting interests such as mining, timber and quarry interests, quantum of funding available and relative value able to be obtained with the available funding. Opportunities to leverage state funding using commonwealth government and other external funding sources to get better value for Queenslanders are also assessed.

Due to these criteria it is not possible to say that any particular area is being targeted and as such properties available for purchase are assessed on a case by case basis. Any current acquisitions would be 'commercial in confidence'.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

No. 7

asked on Thursday, 27 September 2012

MS TRAD ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)—

QUESTION:

I refer to page 5 of the SDS and ask the Minister to list performance targets for the acquisition, assessment and registration of assets on the Queensland Heritage Register?

ANSWER:

The Department of Environment and Resource Management does not have a program for the acquisition of heritage assets.

Under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* (the Act) the department has a role in the assessment and registration of heritage places in the Queensland Heritage register. The department assesses register applications for places to be entered in or removed from the Queensland Heritage register. The Chief Executive makes a recommendation about the application to the Queensland Heritage Council who decide the application. The department's performance target for the assessment and registration of heritage places is to process all applications within the statutory timeframes set out in the Act.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

No. 8

asked on Thursday, 27 September 2012

MR KNUTH ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)—

QUESTION:

The Minister has expressed his willingness to work with local governments to get rid of the bats in Charters Towers. Can the Minister advise what funds have been allocated in the 2012 budget for the removal and eradication of flying fox roosts in residential areas?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government recognises community concerns about flying-foxes roosting in residential areas and is taking the necessary action to minimise the impacts that can result.

In addressing this issue we need to acknowledge that as a broader community we have an influence on flying-fox behaviour. Long term changes to the natural landscape and the creation of food resources and habitat attractive to flying-foxes in urban areas through plantings in backyard gardens and parks is likely to have influenced the movement of these animals closer to residential development.

While it would appear that there are many alternative places away from people where flying-foxes could choose to roost, a range of ideal settings have been created within towns and cities that the animals clearly prefer given the benefits that are available to them. The impact of vegetation clearing and development over time on locations that flying-foxes may have previously used could also be an influencing factor to their current behaviour.

Experience has shown that if flying-foxes are dispersed from a residential location there is every chance that they will either spread out more generally into trees in the local neighbourhood or fly to another nearby roost site which results in equal or greater community conflict. Either of these scenarios only adds to community distress. It is therefore essential that a planned approach is taken to flying-fox roost management.

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection is currently working closely with a number of local governments, including Charters Towers Regional Council, to manage flying-fox roosts. This includes assisting them in the development of flying-fox management plans which may contain strategies for the dispersal of roosts

where the presence of flying-foxes is causing economic loss or affecting human health and wellbeing.

An excellent example of a joint planning approach is the recent decision by Mt Isa City Council to work with Xstrata and the department to establish an alternative flying-foxes roost outside of the town limits. Once a suitable roost site has been established, the flying-foxes would be encouraged to the new site and discouraged from settling in town.

It is not a given that all roosts which may have some level of impact on the local community will be automatically dispersed. A key consideration for deciding whether dispersal should be approved is the possibility of the animals moving to another place or equal or greater community conflict.

Therefore a damage mitigation permit (DMP) may be granted to manage or disperse a flying-fox roost after the proposal has been properly assessed by the department. This is a key area that is currently being reviewed by the department with the intent of providing more rapid and longer term decisions wherever possible. For example, where flying-foxes gather in a new roost location close to urban development, the approval process should allow for the animals to be moved on promptly before they enter into a breeding cycle and build affinity with the site.

For existing roosts, management strategies that may be permitted under a DMP include vegetation clearing, trimming or lopping trees to create a buffer between flying-foxes and affected community members, through to active dispersal of flying-foxes from a roost in combination with vegetation modification to discourage them from returning.

The government is confident the approach being taken for flying-fox roost management is a balanced and responsible way to provide relief to both affected parts of communities and their local council.

There is no specific funding allocation for flying fox management as this is included within the budget for management of a range of native wildlife species. However, there has been no reduction in the budget for this important function.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

No. 9

asked on Thursday, 27 September 2012

MR KNUTH ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister advise how many positions and services terminated from his department since March 2012 will be outsourced to private enterprise?

ANSWER:

At this time, the only service from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection that is being outsourced to private enterprise is the ecoBiz program.

The ecoBiz program was established in 1999 at a time when sustainable industries were in their infancy and needed high levels of government assistance.

Subsequent growth of this market indicates these programs have matured, with a range of service providers addressing the sustainability needs of small to medium businesses across the State.

While the Queensland Government is still committed to this successful program, we have decided to do so in collaboration with industry.

Previously, there were 27 permanent positions and two temporary positions based in the Sustainable Industries Directorate for the delivery of the ecoBiz program and the related Queensland Sustainable Energy Innovation Fund.

This number will reduce to one permanent full-time position for the management of the industry collaboration between now and the end of February 2013.

During this time the government will be calling for expressions of interest to establish a collaborative service delivery model with private enterprise to continue the successful work of ecoBiz.

**AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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

No. 10

asked on Thursday, 27 September 2012

MR KNUTH ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister advise of the portion of QPWS 2012 operational budget allocated to the eradication of feral pests in National Parks compared with the cost and possible income generated by allowing controlled recreational hunting in National Parks?

ANSWER:

The issues raised in the question are the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing. I refer the member to the relevant Minister.

Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee

Question Taken on Notice

No. 1

Asked on 12 October 2012

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

Minister, will you give a detailed breakdown to the committee of how that fishing pleasure vessel levy will be allocated this financial year? [Hansard page 57]

ANSWER:

The fishing pleasure vessel levy is called the Recreational Use Fee. This fee is \$18 (for 2012-13) and is part of the vessel registration for recreational vessels.

Based on the number of recreational vessels in Queensland, the fee will raise around \$4 million in 2012-13. All revenue is allocated to the provision of recreational fishing services as outlined in the table below:

Activity	Allocation 2012-13
Recreational fishing management, compliance and enforcement services	\$808,663
Quick Response Unit (QBFP)	\$319,113
Policy and education including communication and education programs such as free handbook for recreational fishers	\$269,999
Freshwater fishing policy, fish stocking and recovery programs, pest fish education, freshwater and marine habitat protection	\$896,077
Long term biological monitoring, assessment and stock status reporting	\$1,381,562
Recreational fishing survey including Keen Angler and online diary programs	\$276,771
Fishcare (until 1/11/2012)	\$47,815
TOTAL	\$4,000,000

The provision of services by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) to the recreational fishing sector in 2012-13 is estimated at \$10 million. DAFF has estimated it will use \$4 million of the potentially earned revenue from the Recreational Use Fee, allowing for cash flow projections across the entire financial year (that is, the \$18 fee can be paid any time in the financial year, in line with the due date of vessel registration).

Any earned but un-allocated revenue at the end of the financial year will be deferred to the following financial year.

None of the revenue earned from this fee is allocated to the \$9 million netting buy-back [refer Hansard page 57].

Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee

Question Taken on Notice

No. 2

Asked on 12 October 2012

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

In regard to a proposal for a new pilchard fishery, could you provide confirmation of the date on which you received the last piece of correspondence on this issue?
[Hansard pages 57-58]

ANSWER:

The date of the last piece of correspondence received on this matter was 19 September 2012.

Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee

Question Taken on Notice

No. 3

Asked on 12 October 2012

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

Could you table your lobby register? [Hansard page 58]

ANSWER:

Please find information pertaining to the lobby register from the office of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry below.

Date of Contact	Name of Lobbyist	Client of Lobbyist
May 2012		
1 May	SAS Group Peter Constantini, Level 5, ICON Place, 270 Adelaide St, Brisbane	United Petroleum
10 May	Jo Scard Agency	Kelloggs Australia
12 May	Jo Scard Agency	Kelloggs Australia
June 2012		
1 June	SAS Group Peter Constantini, Level 5, ICON Place, 270 Adelaide St, Brisbane	United Petroleum
1 June	Jay Horton & Edward Harrett Strategis Partners, Level 57, MLC Centre, Martin Place, Sydney	Dairy industry plan
1 June	Peter Kreitals Consulting Group, PO Box 567, Deepdeene Delivery Centre, Balwyn Vic	buffalo industry
July 2012		
13 July	SAS Group Luke Giribon and Phil Barresi	United Petroleum
13 July	Three Plus Noel Harvey	Qld Mining Industries
13 July	Rowland Group Andrew Park and Johnathon Flegg	Arcturus Downs CQ
13 July	Govstrat	Macquarie Group
13 July	SAS Group Luke Giribon and Phil Barresi	Manildra Group
14 July	The Next Level Consulting Services David Moore	Ambre Energy, Bandanna Energy
14 July	Asia Pacific Corporation, Ken Crooke	Origin Energy

Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee

Question Taken on Notice

No. 4

Asked on 12 October 2012

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

I note you have been saying that 450 jobs are being slashed from the department in budget paper No. 2. How many of these positions were classified as front line in the MOHRI data under (a) the definition applied as at 28 March 2012 and (b) the definition now applied by the LNP government? [Hansard page 60]

ANSWER:

The current definition of frontline staff are staff who provide services directly to the public for the majority of their time. “Majority” is defined as at least 75% of their time in direct public interaction through either face-to-face or telephone contact.

Of the 452 positions identified as surplus, 55 positions are defined as frontline. These positions include services that are provided by other government agencies or within the private sector (farm financial counsellors, fisheries observers) and changes in the management of endemic biosecurity pests (Invasive Plants and Animals Biosecurity officers, engagement officers).

The previous definition of frontline staff as at 28 March 2012 was:

- Employees whose services are directly utilised by the public (which includes the people of Queensland, Australia or overseas, private sector organisations or public sector organisations outside the Queensland Public Service)
- Employees identified as providing these services for the majority of their time, includes management of these services.

This definition covered positions which had limited, if any, direct contact with the Queensland public including:

- laboratory and technical staff working on research projects funded by external organisations
- policy staff working on Commonwealth government sponsored projects
- scientific staff working on overseas aid projects
- planning staff working with local government organisations
- Senior executives, including the Associate Director-General and Deputy Directors-General, responsible for business areas which incorporated frontline services.

Of the 452 positions being declared surplus, 180 positions would have been defined as ‘frontline’ using the broader definition of frontline.

ESTIMATES QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

No. 1

asked on Friday, 12 October 2012

MS TRAD ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)——

QUESTION:

In reference to the Lake Eyre Basin Wild River Declaration being amended due to errors in the declaration, what are those errors?

ANSWER:

The proposed amendments to the Cooper Creek Wild River Declaration 2011 and Georgina and Diamantina Wild River Declaration 2011 are to correct minor drafting errors in the wording of certain subsections in the declarations.

One change relates to a minor error arising from the omission of the words “high preservation area and special floodplain management area” in both wild river declarations. This omission affects how conditions are to be applied to petroleum and gas activities in the wild river areas. If not corrected, the consequence is that restrictions on petroleum and gas activities, intended to apply in high preservation and special floodplain management areas, are being broadly applied across the entire declaration area. This was not the intent of the regulation as endorsed by the former Government or that was communicated to industry and the community.

Additionally, another minor error will be corrected to fix an inconsistency in terminology between the wording for Chapter 5A Environmental Authorities used in the declarations and the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. As a result of the commencement of the *Geothermal Energy Act 2010* in March 2012, consequential amendments to the Environmental Protection Act made geothermal activities a Chapter 5A activity and the wild river declaration must be amended to update the terminology to ‘Environmental Authority (Chapter 5A Activity)’ so that is consistent with the Environmental Protection Act.

There are also a small number of other minor typographic and grammatical errors that will be corrected when the amendments are made. The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has undertaken a detailed review of all sections of the Cooper Creek Basin and Georgina and Diamantina basins wild river declarations to ensure there are no other errors. No further errors were identified in this review.

ESTIMATES QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

No. 2

asked on Friday 12 October 2012

MS TRAD ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)——

QUESTION:

Can the Minister identify the number of departmental officers under the previous Department of Environment and Resource Management as at 24 March 2012 and the current Department of Environment and Heritage Protection as at 12 October 2012, who were involved in assessment, compliance and enforcement responsible for the CSG industry?

ANSWER:

In relation to CSG/LNG regulation under the Environmental Protection Act and Chapter 3 of the Water Act:

As at 24 March 2012, the numbers of officers involved in CSG/LNG environmental assessment, compliance and enforcement under the former Department of Environment and Resource Management were as follows:

- there were 24 full-time equivalent positions that were filled within the Energy Assessment Unit;
- there were 5 full-time equivalent positions that were filled within the Energy Implementation team (which conducted, and still conducts, Baseline Assessments and prepares Underground Water Impact Reports under Chapter 3 of the Water Act 2000);
- within the compliance support area there was 1 CSG/LNG designated officer in the context of there being a larger number of officers available for CSG/LNG compliance investigations; and
- there were 37 officers within the LNG Enforcement Unit (including, at that time, regional compliance officers).

As at 12 October 2012, the numbers of officers involved in CSG/LNG environmental assessment, compliance and enforcement under the present Department of Environment and Heritage Protection are as follows:

- there are 19 full-time equivalent positions that are filled within the Energy Assessment Unit;
- there are 4 full-time equivalent positions that are filled within the Energy Implementation team;
- within the compliance support area there remains 1 CSG/LNG designated officer in the context of there being a larger number of officers available for CSG/LNG compliance investigations;
- the LNG Enforcement Unit became the responsibility of the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines under recent Machinery of Government changes. 12

positions were retained by the department of Environment and Heritage Protection. These 12 full-time equivalent positions in the department of Environment and Heritage Protection are filled by officers employed in front-line regional service compliance roles. Questions relating to the number of full time equivalent positions in the LNG Enforcement Unit in the Department of Natural Resources and Mines should be directed to that portfolio.

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

asked on 12 October 2012

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

QUESTION:

Can you advise how many officers have accessed the Employee Assistance Service from 26 March to date (12 October) in your department? [p.21-2]

ANSWER:

During the period 26 March to 31 July 2012, the department's employee assistance provider collected data for the former Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, and the former Department of Environment and Resource Management. The number of Department of Natural Resources and Mines employees who have accessed this service during this period has been averaged out as one per cent of the total workforce.

From 1 August 2012, the employee assistance service provider commenced collecting data for the Department of Natural Resources and Mines. As at 31 August 2012, 2.64 per cent of the total workforce had utilised the service, and as at 30 September 2012, 1.8 per cent of the total workforce had utilised the service.

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines is not privy to personal information as this service is strictly confidential. Protecting the privacy of clients' information is a critical aspect of the service.

Unfortunately, the employee assistance provider was not able to provide the monthly usage rates for each division of the departments within the required timeframe.

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

asked on 12 October 2012

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

QUESTION:

Can you advise what percentage of staff made redundant since 24 March in your department were actually front line, as per the definition which was in place at the time the LNP came into government?

ANSWER:

Reductions of frontline staff in the Department of Natural Resources and Mines represent only two per cent of the department's workforce. This equates to 54 out of a total of 2702 full-time equivalent staff as at 30 September 2012.

By definition, frontline services refer to employees whose services are directly utilised by the public, for the majority of their working time. This definition has been in place since 2006, and has not been amended since the LNP Government was elected. It is published on the Public Service Commission website.

An audit of frontline and non-frontline positions, conducted by the Public Service Commission (PSC) in May–June 2012, found there was inconsistent interpretation of the definition in departments. The definition uses the word 'majority', and to ensure consistency, this has been sensibly interpreted to mean that the role must provide services directly to the public for around 75 per cent of the working time.

The department is confident that the proportion of frontline staff identified by the PSC in the audit accurately reflects those roles that deliver direct services to the public for the majority of the working time.

While a small number of frontline staff have been offered and accepted redundancies, the department is committed to ensuring that frontline services continue to be delivered to the public in an efficient and cost-effective way.

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

asked on 12 October 2012

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

QUESTION:

Minister, in response to your question on notice No. 1 you identify only three breaches of illegal clearing determined by courts, not the 23 prosecutions finalised which you reflect in your press release. Why does the same response identify only 33 hectares and approximately \$100,000 in penalties compared with your press release of 15,000 hectares and approximately \$1.3 million in fines? [p.16]

ANSWER:

I can advise that the response to the Question on Notice specifically addressed the honourable member's question regarding the number of breaches committed under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* in the financial years 2009–10, 2010–11 and 2011–12. The April 2012 press release related to the total number of breaches determined by the Court since July 2009.

Since July 2009, the Court has determined 23 cases relating to clearing of approximately 15,000 hectares and resulting in approximately \$1.3 million in fines; however, only three of these 23 cases relate to breaches committed in the 2009–10 and 2010–11 financial years. Of the 23 cases determined by the Courts since July 2009, 20 cases were for breaches committed in the years preceding the 2009–10 financial years. No breaches have yet been prosecuted and determined for the 2011–12 financial year.

Of the cases decided by the Court since July 2009 relating to breaches since that date, there have been three guilty findings, hence three breaches — one breach committed in 2009–10 and two in 2010–11. For the breach committed in 2009–10, the Court levied a fine of \$23,500 for clearing 14 hectares, and for the breaches in 2010–11, fines totalling \$22,500 for clearing 19 hectares.

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

asked on 12 October 2012

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

QUESTION:

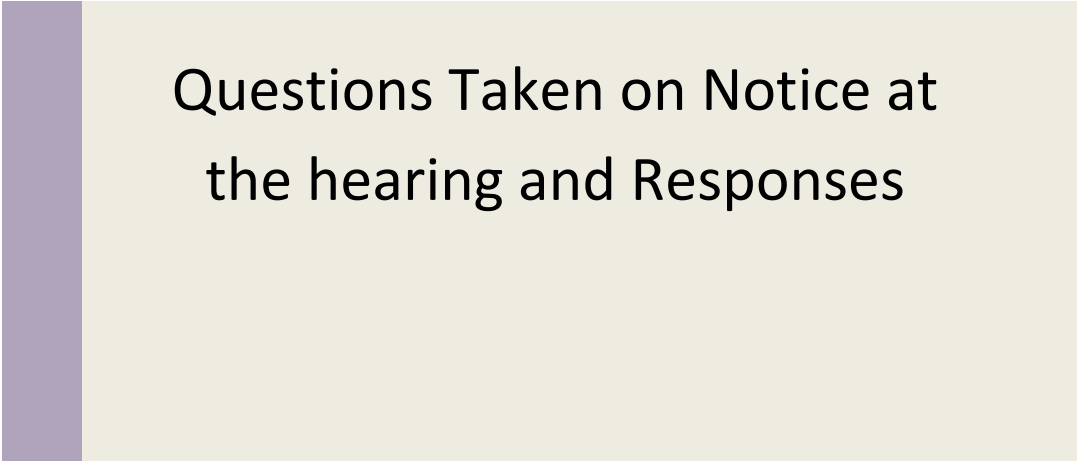
Minister, in your answer to question on notice No. 5, I think it is, in relation to the staffing positions within your department—sorry, it is question No. 6—there seems to be a lot who have now been sacked or made redundant from the vegetation management area. Can you quantify how many positions have been made redundant from all areas involved in vegetation management in Queensland and how that reflects as a percentage of the entire number of people who were employed at the time the LNP came into government?

ANSWER:

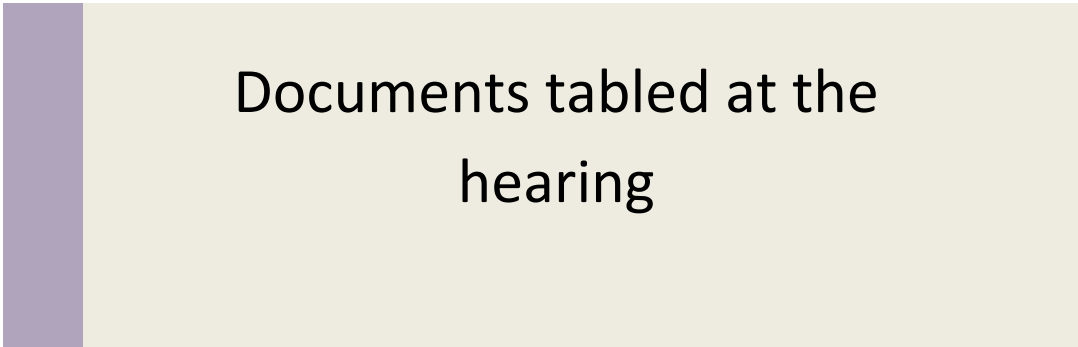
As at 21 September 2012, the agency had 38 positions identified as vegetation management positions.

In addition to the three positions referred to at the hearing on 12 October 2012, the department advises that an additional temporary position has been identified in the Cairns area.

Vegetation management officers made up just 0.3 per cent of the total reduction in the agency's permanent workforce to 21 September 2012, and just one per cent of the 405 permanent and temporary staff to have exited or whose position had been deemed surplus as at that date.



Questions Taken on Notice at the hearing and Responses



Documents tabled at the hearing

① TABLED NEWMAN FOR SOUTH RAINBOW

Vegetation management under review

TROY ROWLING

23 Apr, 2012 04:00 AM

LESS than a month in office, the Newman Government has acted swiftly to address landholder concerns over vegetation management laws, announcing a thorough review of investigative and enforcement processes.

Natural Resources Minister Andrew Cripps said the State Government would immediately review the way penalty provisions of the Vegetation Management Act (VMA) had been applied to alleged breaches.

Mr Cripps said the Natural Resources and Mines Department acting director-general had been issued instructions to:

Place on hold investigations of individuals and businesses for alleged breaches of the VMA until completion of a review of penalty processes.

Withdraw an existing appeal seeking an increase in penalty, launched under the former Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM).

Provide the Natural Resources and Mines Minister with a review of penalties imposed since the Act started, based on a detailed review of past case files.

The review will initially be independent of the Crown Law Department in determining whether a wider external review is required. This process could take eight weeks.

The announcement is welcome for Queensland landholders who have repeatedly raised concerns over the strong-arm legal tactics used by the former DERM.

Mr Cripps said the LNP had for many years expressed serious concerns about the perceived focus of the Labor Government on an overly aggressive policy of compliance and prosecution of vegetation laws.

He said the number of prosecutions and level of fines for illegal vegetation clearing had risen significantly in recent years, with a noticeable change coinciding with the former Labor Government merging the then Natural Resources Department with the Environmental Protection Agency to create DERM.

Between 2000 and July 2009, there were about 77 cases involving 25,000ha of illegally cleared vegetation, resulting in about \$218,000 in fines.

Since July 2009, however, 23 prosecutions have been finalised for offences totalling more than 15,000ha of illegally cleared vegetation, resulting in about \$1.3m in fines.

"This is concerning because there has not been an amendment to the VMA to provide for more extensive penalties for such offences," Mr Cripps said.

"I am extremely concerned about the apparent inconsistencies in how the provisions ... have been applied since the formation of DERM. I want to make it clear that this action does not signal changes to the Vegetation Management Act.

"Rather, it is about delivering practical outcomes and certainty for landholders and industry in this area of government policy."

AgForce president Brent Finlay said the review was "refreshing" for landholders after facing years of the former Bligh Government wielding a big stick when enforcing its environmental policy. He said the Newman Government's policies would help to depoliticise the vegetation management debate and allow a more reasonable discussion of scientific and legal interpretation.

Mr Cripps said it was vital landholders had the right information about vegetation clearing.

* Do you have an issue with the VMA? Email troy.rowling@ruralpress.com

Queensland Country Life

Source: <http://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au>



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Protocols for communication between ministerial staff members and public service employees

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of these protocols is to provide for proper and transparent communication between ministerial staff members and public service employees.

2. Application

- 2.1. These protocols constitute a whole-of-government policy that:
- 2.1.1 applies to employees of departments of government declared under section 14 of the *Public Service Act 2008* (the *Code of Conduct for the Queensland Public Service* provides that public service employees will comply with whole-of-government policies);
 - 2.1.2 applies to ministerial staff members (the *Code of Conduct for Ministerial Staff Members* provides that ministerial staff members will comply with applicable policies); and
 - 2.1.2 complements the concurrent Premier's Communiqué entitled *Interaction between Ministerial Staff and Public Servants* (Attachment 1).

2.2. **Effective date:** 25 August 2012

3. Context

- 3.1. A priority of the new LNP Government in Queensland is to restore accountability in government.
- 3.2. Premier Campbell Newman expects a revitalised, professional public service to give frank and fearless advice to Ministers.
- 3.3. Premier Newman also expects Ministers and their staff to perform and behave to the highest standard. Ministers are to make decisions that are open and accountable, and function under a clear line of responsibility for their departments, in accordance with the Westminster system of departments reporting to a single Minister.
- 3.4. Proper and transparent communication between ministerial officers and the public service is an important part of restored accountability in government.

4. Principles

- 4.1. The Queensland Government operates as a system of responsible government.
- 4.2. Governments are responsible collectively to the community through the electoral process and are supported by an independent public service. Ministers are responsible individually to Parliament for the administration of their portfolios. Directors-General are responsible for the delivery of their departments' services and are

accountable ultimately to the Premier, although they report to their responsible Minister on a day-to-day basis.

- 4.3. Departments are responsible for giving independent and apolitical advice to assist the government and the Minister with decision-making.
- 4.4. Subject to legislative provision to the contrary¹, Ministers may direct Directors-General in relation to administering their portfolios, and may direct a department to act in a manner that is contrary to its own advice. However, a Minister's power to give direction to a Director-General does not include the power to compel the Director-General to give particular advice or to change departmental advice.
- 4.5. Ministerial staff members and public service employees are subject to rigorous accountability measures. Their interactions are subject to a comprehensive framework of laws, policies and codes of conduct that establish legal obligations and expected standards of behaviour.
- 4.6. Positive and productive interaction between the administrative and political arms of government is central to good government.

¹ For example, see section 100 of the *Public Service Act 2008* which provides that a chief executive is subject to the directions of the departmental Minister in managing the department, except where another Act provides otherwise or limits the extent to which, or circumstances in which, the chief executive is subject to directions of the departmental Minister. Also, section 175 of the *Right to Information Act 2009* makes it an offence to direct a person to make a decision the person believes is not the decision that should be made.

5. Protocols

- 5.1. Ministerial staff members and public service employees have different but complementary roles.
- 5.2. Public service employees provide advice that is objective, independent, apolitical and impartial and give effect to the policies and decisions of the government of the day, regardless of its political complexion.
- 5.3. Ministerial staff members facilitate communication of ministerial priorities to departments and act as a conduit between Ministers and public service employees, for example, by communicating ministerial views or decisions and requesting information or briefing notes.
- 5.4. In performing this role, ministerial staff members may ask public service employees to provide information or prepare briefing notes on particular issues, or covering particular topics, within specified timeframes to assist the Minister in the timely performance of the Minister's duties and responsibilities. Ministerial staff members may also discuss advice received and seek clarification of the advice. Such requests are commonplace communications that would usually occur in the course of normal day-to-day interactions necessary for the administration of government business.
- 5.5. However, consistent with the legislation and contracts of employment of ministerial staff members, ministerial staff members do not have the power to direct public service employees or to make policy or administrative decisions in their own right without specific and direct authorisation from the Minister.
- 5.6. Unless the matter is of a routine administrative nature, Ministerial staff members must not directly contact public service employees who work in a department that reports to a different

- Minister. Such contact must only be made with the prior agreement of the appropriate Ministerial office.
- 5.7. Unless otherwise legislatively prescribed, if there is any doubt about the authority of a direction conveyed by a ministerial staff member, public service employees are expected to confirm that the direction has ministerial authority. Public service employees should do so by asking the ministerial staff member for confirmation that a direction is being relayed with the authority of a Minister.
- 5.8. Unless otherwise legislatively prescribed, a formal ministerial direction should be provided in writing to the Director-General where practical. In the event of urgency, the direction may be provided verbally and confirmed in writing. If the Director-General is not available to receive the direction, the direction can be provided to an alternative Senior Officer and confirmed in writing to the Director-General.
- 5.9. Just as Ministers may not direct that particular advice be given or departmental advice be changed (as mentioned in paragraph 4.4 above), ministerial staff members may not direct public service employees to give particular advice or change departmental advice.
- 5.10. Ministerial staff members must not ask a public service employee to take any action that would be inconsistent with the public service employee's duties and obligations under the *Public Service Act 2008* or other employing legislation, or the Code of Conduct for the Queensland Public Service or an approved code of conduct under the *Public Sector Ethics Act 1994*.
- 5.11. Regardless of any communications with ministerial staff members, the obligation on public service employees to provide advice that is objective, independent, apolitical and impartial remains paramount.

Documenting decisions and interactions

- 5.12. In line with the requirements of the *Public Records Act 2002*, public service employees and ministerial staff members should ensure that formal decisions and actions are documented in sufficient detail to ensure that the processes involved are accountable and transparent.
- 5.13. Public service employees and ministerial staff members should keep full and accurate records of all substantive communications between ministerial staff members and public service employees and of the process of making formal decisions, in line with existing legislative and administrative requirements to make and keep records.
- 5.14. Formal recordkeeping is particularly important when a Minister or Ministerial staff member on the Minister's behalf verbally or in writing provides a direction to departments to implement particular policies or the Minister makes a final decision that is contrary to, or overrides, departmental advice.
- 5.15. Records should be made in such a manner that the information is readily accessible in the records directly relating to the Minister's decision. For example, a department's ministerial briefing note for decision should contain a section to capture the Minister's approval of, or response to, the department's recommendations.
- 5.16. Where possible, a file reference should be included in all submissions to, or replies from, the Minister to assist in proper recordkeeping.
- 5.17. When a Minister has instructed that certain action be taken contrary to departmental advice, the department should consider providing information and advice as to how it proposes to implement the instruction in a briefing note to the Minister.

6. Support to public service employees and ministerial staff members

Public service employees

- 6.1. Directors-General should provide ongoing support to staff (including reinforcing among senior executives their responsibility to provide support to their staff) in managing their interactions with Ministers and ministerial staff members, as per the Premier's Communiqué entitled *Interaction between Ministerial Staff and Public Servants (Attachment 1)*.
- 6.2. Public service employees should raise any concerns with their Senior Officer or Director-General. The Director-General should, if necessary, raise significant concerns with the Minister.

Ministerial staff members

- 6.3. Ministerial staff members should discuss any matters of perceived breach of these protocols by public service employees with their Chief of Staff, who should refer significant concerns where necessary to the Director-General.

7. Directors-General to liaise with Ministers with a view to supplementing the protocols

- 7.1. If necessary, Directors-General should liaise with Ministers about the desirability of supplementing the above protocols with further guidelines about communication between ministerial staff members and public service employees tailored to the particular needs of the Minister or Director-General.
- 7.2. However, supplementary guidelines may not detract from the minimum standards of communication between ministerial staff members and public

service employees represented by the protocols contained in this document.

- 7.3. The Director-General should ensure public service employees affected by any department-specific supplementary guidelines are notified of the supplementary guidelines as well as these protocols. The Chief of Staff should also notify ministerial staff members of any department-specific supplementary guidelines.

8. Review of protocols

- 8.1. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet must review these protocols on each occasion the code of conduct for the public service is reviewed under subsection (2) of section 12C of the *Public Sector Ethics Act 1994*.
- 8.2. Section 12C of the *Public Sector Ethics Act 1994* provides:

12C Review of code

- (1) *The commission [Public Service Commission] chief executive must review the code of conduct for public service agencies within 1 year after it is approved under section 12B. [The Code was approved with an effective date of 1 January 2011.]*
- (2) *The commission chief executive must subsequently review the code no later than 2 years after the previous review.*

Premier's Communiqué

Interaction between ministerial staff and public servants

The purpose of this Communiqué is to provide clear direction on the expected standards of conduct for interactions between ministerial staff and public service employees.

Ministerial staff and public servants must have a clear understanding of their respective roles and responsibilities within the broader context of our Westminster system of government:

Ministers. The Westminster system dictates that, as elected representatives, Ministers are individually responsible to Parliament for the administration of their portfolios, and that governments are collectively accountable to the community through the electoral process.

Public Servants. The public service gives effect to the policies and decisions of the government of the day, regardless of its political complexion, and provides advice that is objective and impartial as well as responsive, accurate and comprehensive. Directors-General are responsible for the delivery of their department's services and are ultimately accountable to the Premier, although they report to their responsible Minister on a day-to-day basis.

Ministerial Staff. The practical realities of the ministerial workload require that Ministers receive support

to manage portfolio responsibilities, control policy direction and negotiate the political arena. This is the primary purpose of employing ministerial staff; they support and assist Ministers to meet their broad responsibilities and provide advice which takes account of political considerations and complements the advice of the public service.

Ministerial staff do not have any executive power or other legal authority to direct public service employees in their own right. However, they perform a critical role in facilitating communication of ministerial priorities to departments and acting as a conduit between Ministers and public service employees, for example by communicating ministerial views or decisions. Ministerial staff must not ask a public service employee to take any action which would be inconsistent with that person's duties and obligations under the *Public Service Act 2008* or under the *Public Sector Ethics Act 1994*.

Positive and productive interaction between the administrative and political arms of government is central to good government. Together, the work performed by ministerial staff and the public service contributes to a robust system that allows Ministers to receive information and analysis that enable them to make informed decisions.

All interactions between Ministers, ministerial staff and public servants are subject to a comprehensive framework of laws, policies and codes of conduct that establish legal obligations and expected standards of behaviour.

Within the context of this framework, the Queensland Government expects that:

- Ministerial staff and public service employees must, at all times, behave honestly and with integrity in the course of their employment, treating each other with respect and courtesy.
- Ministerial staff must act on the understanding that they do not have the capacity to direct public servants in their own right and that public service employees are not subject to their directions unless those directions are being communicated to a Director-General on behalf of the responsible Minister.
- Directions given by ministerial staff to the public service on behalf of a Minister should be provided directly to Directors-General in accordance with the public service management and accountability framework set out in the *Public Service Act 2008*.
- Directors-General should provide ongoing support to staff (including reinforcing among senior executives their responsibility to provide support to their staff) in managing their interactions with Ministers and ministerial staff.
- Directors-General should be openly available to senior executives and other staff to

answer questions or provide advice if any actions of ministerial staff are considered to be unreasonable (or potentially unlawful).

- Where concerns have been raised relating to interactions with ministerial staff, the Director-General should raise the matter with the appropriate Minister for resolution. The Minister should work cooperatively with their Director-General to achieve resolution of matters as they arise.
- Where a matter can not be adequately resolved, it should be referred to the Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet for resolution with the Premier's Chief of Staff or the Premier directly.
- Where a direction or action could potentially be unlawful, the matter should be referred to the relevant Director-General to determine whether to notify the Crime or Misconduct Commission or the police.
- Ministerial staff and public service employees should be aware of and comply with their roles, responsibilities and obligations as contained in their respective codes of conduct.
- Ministerial staff and public service employees should also be aware of each other's roles, responsibilities and obligations, and the context and environment within which they operate.

③ TABLE
 SUMMARY for
 November
 AP

TABLE 1 – FISCAL REPAIR SAVINGS MEASURES, DEPARTMENTS, 2012-13 TO 2015-16.

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs	(1,718)	(3,475)	(3,475)	(3,475)
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	(26,592)	(47,093)	(46,343)	(46,343)
Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services	(75,391)	(117,231)	(117,231)	(117,231)
Department of Community Safety	(29,928)	(48,231)	(48,272)	(48,314)
Department of Education, Training and Employment	(133,745)	(197,689)	(213,310)	(213,310)
Department of Energy and Water Supply	(3,262)	(10,176)	(6,376)	(6,376)
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection	(15,912)	(25,548)	(25,548)	(25,548)
Department of Housing and Public Works	(1,276)	(2,552)	(2,552)	(2,552)
Department of Justice and Attorney-General	(20,093)	(33,425)	(33,425)	(33,425)
Department of Local Government	(3,772)	(4,399)	(4,599)	(4,699)
Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing	(6,312)	(11,422)	(11,422)	(11,422)
Department of Natural Resources and Mines	(22,268)	(43,270)	(43,770)	(43,970)
Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts	(2,671)	(5,341)	(5,341)	(5,341)
Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning	(10,221)	(21,324)	(21,688)	(22,093)
Department of the Premier and Cabinet	(2,555)	(5,216)	(5,216)	(5,216)
Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games	(964)	(1,928)	(1,928)	(1,928)
Department of Transport and Main Roads	(82,049)	(150,496)	(150,496)	(150,496)
Electoral Commission of Queensland	(71)	(142)	(142)	(142)
Legislative Assembly of Queensland	(991)	(991)	(991)	(991)
Office of the Ombudsman	(60)	(119)	(119)	(119)
Public Service Commission	(81)	(162)	(162)	(162)
Queensland Health	(208,771)	(479,042)	(479,042)	(479,042)
Queensland Police Service	(24,761)	(49,112)	(49,092)	(49,442)
Queensland Treasury and Trade	(5,231)	(10,462)	(10,462)	(10,462)
Total	(678,695)	(1,268,846)	(1,281,002)	(1,282,099)

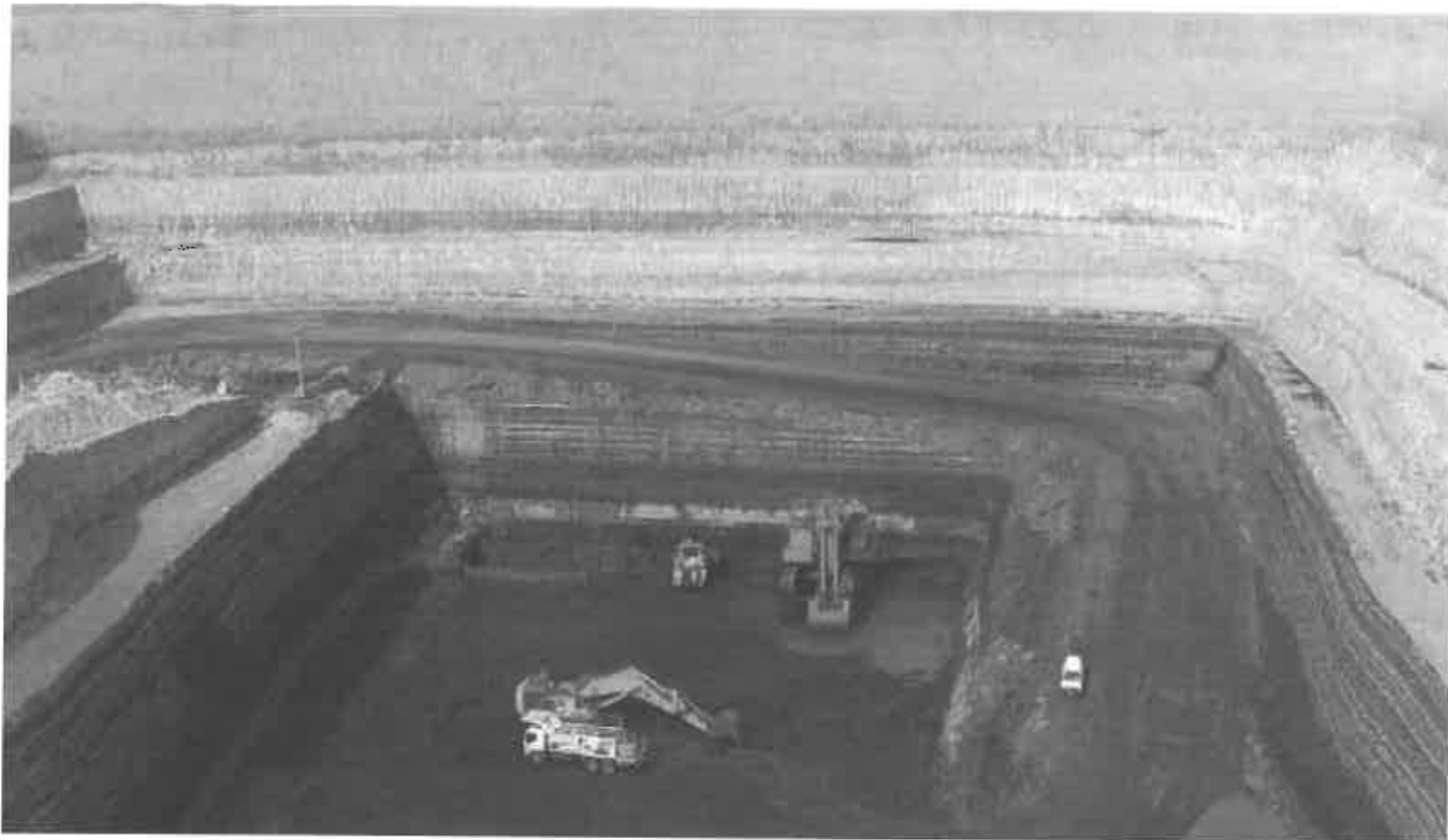
(4)

TABLE 13
TABLE FOR
BUNDABERG

D.

Unit	Location	Positions	
		Title	Number
	North Region – Mount Isa	District Inspector of Mines	1
		Inspector of Mines (Electrical)	1
		Inspector of Mines (Chem/Metallurgical)	1
		Inspector of Mines (Geomechanical)	1
		Inspector of Mines	2
		Inspection Officer (Mechanical)	1
		District Workers' Representative	1
		Regional Inspector of Mines	1
	South Region	Inspector of Mines (Electrical)	1
		Inspector of Mines (Mechanical)	1
		Inspector of Mines (Small Mines)	1
		Inspection Officer	2
		Principal Investigation Officer	1
		District Workers' Representative	2
		Administration Officer	1
	Head Office	Chief Inspector of Coal Mines	1
		Chief Inspector of Mines	1
		Deputy Chief Inspector of Coal Mines	1
		Senior Inspector of Mines (Electrical)	1
		Senior Inspector of Mines (Metallurgical)	1
		Senior Inspector of Mines	2
		Executive Assistant	1
Health Surveillance Unit	Head Office	Health Surveillance Manager	1
		Statistician	2
		Occupational Physician (part-time)	1
		Senior Occupational Health Advisor	1
		Medical Records Officer	1
		Administration Officer – Medical Records	2
Board of Examiners	Head Office	Secretary, Board of Examiners	1
		Administration Officer	2
Directorate	Head Office	Commissioner for Mine Safety and Health/Deputy Director-General	1
		State Operations Manager	1
		Principal Advisor Policy and Coordination	1
		Principal Project Officer	1
		Project Officers (Temporary)	2
		Training Officer	1
		Executive Officer	1
		Administrative Officer	3
		Lotus Notes Developer	2

Note: The positions listed in this table are restricted to those who are directly aligned with or support the functions and activities of the Queensland Mines Inspectorate. However, it should be noted that the directorate positions also provide the same support for the Explosives Inspectorate and the Petroleum and Gas Inspectorate.



Hancock Coal Alpha Project opening up the Galilee Basin

Table 5: Staffing numbers by organisational structure

Group	Division	Headcount
Safety and Health	Central Region	29
	Directorate	12.5
	Mines Inspectorate	8
	North Region	21
	Health Surveillance Unit	8
	Board of Examiners	3
	South Region	10
Total		91.5

Our staff

Recruitment and retention activities

Mining in Queensland has grown significantly over the last few years and, despite a minor downturn in employee numbers due to the global financial crisis, numbers are again on the rise. As at 30 June 2012 there were more than 54 000 employees in Queensland's mining sector.

Increased industry activity has led to a continuing shortage of trained staff and the possible risk exposure of untrained or poorly trained workers on mining sites.

Because all coal mine inspectors (mining) are required to hold statutory certificates of competency, the department has continued to recruit people with international experience from interstate and overseas who will be able to obtain Queensland statutory certification in a short period of time. The QMI is exploring new areas of expertise including South Africa. In this way, we will ensure the correct level of competence and numeric strength to continue regulatory inspection at a high level, particularly with respect to underground coal mines.

We, as the mine safety and health regulator, are working diligently to ensure sufficient suitably qualified individuals will continue to be available, so that the mining industry can maintain sustainable growth within the regulatory requirements to maintain world's best practice with respect to safety and health in the mining industry.

Table 4 Positions supporting the activities and functions of the Queensland Mines Inspectorate

Unit	Location	Positions	
		Title	Number
Queensland Mines Inspectorate	Central Region: Rockhampton	Manager, Safety and Health	1
		District Inspector of Mines	1
		Inspector of Mines (Electrical)	1
		Inspector of Mines	5
		Principal Investigation Officer	1
		Inspection Officer (Mechanical)	1
		Senior Administration Officer	1
		Administration Officer	3
	Central Region: Mackay	District Inspector of Mines	1
		Senior Inspector of Mines (Electrical)	1
		Inspector of Mines (Mining)	6
		Inspector of Mines (Mechanical)	1
		Inspector of Mines (Senior Principal Occupational Hygienist)	1
		Inspector of Mines (Senior Principal Ergonomist/Principal Human Factors Adviser)	1
		Principal Investigation Officer	1
		Administration Officer	2
	North Region: Townsville	Manager Safety and Health	1
		Senior Inspector of Mines	1
		District Inspector of Mines	1
		Inspector of Mines (Small Mines)	1
		Inspector of Mines	2
		Senior Principal Occupational Hygienist	1
		Principal Investigation Officer	1
		District Workers Representative	1
		Administration Officer	2

Unit	Location	Positions	
		Title	Number
	North Region: Cairns	Inspector of Mines (Mechanical)	1
	North Region: Mount Isa	District Inspector of Mines	1
		Inspector of Mines (Electrical)	1
		Inspector of Mines (Chem/Metallurgical)	1
		Inspector of Mines (Geomechanical)	1
		Inspector of Mines	2
		Inspection Officer (Mechanical)	1
		Administration Officer	1
	South Region	Regional Inspector of Mines	1
		Inspector of Mines (Electrical)	1
		Inspector of Mines (Mechanical)	1
		Inspector of Mines (Small Mines)	1
		Inspection Officer	1
		Principal Investigation Officer	1
		District Workers Representative	2
		Administration Officer	1
	Head Office Inspectorate	Chief Inspector of Mines	1
		Chief Inspector of Coal Mines	1
		Deputy Chief Inspector of Coal Mines	1
		Senior Inspector of Mines (Mechanical)	1
		Senior Inspector of Mines (Electrical)	1
		Senior Inspector of Mines	1
		Executive Assistant	1
Health Surveillance Unit	Head Office	Health Surveillance Manager	1
		Statistician	2
		Occupational Physician (part-time)	1
		Senior Occupational Health Advisor	1
		Administration Officer	1
		Administration Officer (Medical Records Officer)	1
Board of Examiners	Head Office	Secretary, Board of Examiners	1
		Administration Officer	1
Directorate	Head Office	Commissioner for Mine Safety and Health/Deputy Director-General Safety and Health	1
		Executive Director Statewide Operations	1
		Principal Advisor Policy and Coordination	2
		Principal Project Officer	1
		Training Officer	1
		Executive Officer	1
		Levy Administration Officers	3
		Senior Administration Officer	1
		Lotus Notes Developer	1

Note: The positions listed in this table are restricted to those directly aligned with or who support the functions and activities of the QMI. However, it should be noted that the directorate positions also provide the same support for the Explosives Inspectorate and the Petroleum and Gas Inspectorate.

TABLES MEMBER
For South Brisbane
D. 12.10.12

Home Climate Community Nature Water Events About Us Media Donate Forum

Sections



Upcoming Events

- World Food Day**
October 16, 2012 (All Day)
(National or International Day)
- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**
October 17, 2012 (All Day)
(National or International Day)
- The Global Land Grab - St Lucia**
November 05, 2012 (1:00 pm - 2:30 pm)
(Sustainability Info)
- International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict**
November 06, 2012 (All Day)
(National or International Day)
- Ban Plastic Bags Lunch Forum - Manly**
November 20, 2012 (12:30 pm - 2:30 pm)
(Queensland Conservation)

More Events

Newsletter Subscription

- ☐ QC Connection
- ☐ Grow Local
- ☐ Rivers Alive

Email Address

First Name

Last Name

Subscribe

Deputy Premier Seeney in Coastal Land Coup



In an unprecedented move this week, made without prior consultation, Deputy Premier Jeff Seeney has seized control of Queensland coastal environment regulations because they were not 'sufficiently supportive of the LNP's four pillar economy'.

"The Queensland coastal environment is now managed by the Department of State Development and not the Department of Environment and Heritage," said Toby Hutcheon, Executive Director of Queensland Conservation (QCC).

The Deputy Premier has 'switched off' the Queensland Coastal Plan and removed the checks and balances that were designed to protect coastal environments and icons like the Great Barrier Reef. These areas are now exposed to further threat if the Minister for State Development decides it is in the interests of his portfolio. This is the kind of approach that has led to the Great Barrier Reef now being considered as a World Heritage site in danger.

Environment groups are utterly opposed to the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning taking charge of coastal protection. The core purpose of the Queensland Coastal Plan is to protect the natural environment and coastal ecosystem functions. It is not designed to support economic development, but to guide the types of development that can occur in these areas.

"The people of Queensland did not vote for a Government that would put the department responsible for economic development in charge of environmental protection," Toby said.

Note: The State Planning Regulatory Provision (SPRP) also suspends parts of a number of Statutory Regional Plans including FNQ, Mackay/Whitsundays, Wide Bay Burnett and SEQ Regional Plans

The Draft Coastal Protection State Planning Regulatory Provision (SPRP)

Introduced on 8 October 2012 by Deputy Premier Jeff Seeney, the regulation is operational from 8 October for one year.

In the explanatory notes department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSD) state that the coastal protection planning policy is 'not sufficiently supportive of the government's commitment to grow the four pillars of Queensland's economy'.

QCC says that the Coastal Plan is designed to protect the natural environment, coastal functions and prevent unsustainable development. If it is acting as a brake on development, there is a reason-the development is threatening the environment or local community.

Areas of High Ecological Significance

Development is to be located outside of and not have significant impact upon these areas unless the development is for a purpose specified below:

- Urban, residential
- Tourism purposes
- Maritime development
- Ports or airport
- Aquaculture
- Minor marine infrastructure
- Extractive industries

This does not exclude many developments. Only commercial/industrial comes to mind.

Whilst the issue of offsets is a vexed one, in this document the offsets requirement has been removed.

Coastal Hazards

Developments in coastal zones identified as high risk is to be retained undeveloped wherever possible. Where an area has a development commitment, the development needs to address vulnerability to sea level rise and proposed evacuation routes.

Queensland Conservation believes that any area that is high risk should have development prohibited.

There are currently no climate adaptation plans for coastal zones that accurately identify where land is high risk or vulnerable to inundation. For development to occur in any suspect areas, means that the purchaser of the property will take the risk if the area is inundated in the future. Massive public infrastructure investment-power, sewerage, roads- is required to service new developments. If these areas are inundated, that public investment is wasted.

The document requires that a full evaluation of the risk from sea level rise and inundation is carried out. But by whom? The State says it has no money, local government says it has neither the expertise or resources-which leaves the proponents of each development. Do they have the resources or the will? They also have a vested interest in downplaying any potential risks.

For more information:

<http://www.dsdp.qld.gov.au/resources/laws/state-planning-regulatory-provision/draft-coastal-protection-sprp.pdf>

Media Release | Contact Us

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14. If this tender is not approved by 23 April 2012, the tender may be void and the cost of the project on re-tendering would rise significantly, in line with building cost escalations. In addition, if the project is not commenced by the end of April 2012, the current laboratory may be demolished before a new one is constructed.

Next Steps subject to TBSL Project approval by Minister

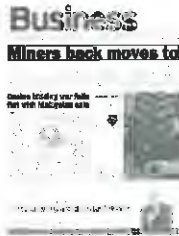
Tender Outcome

15. Project Services has provided a Tender report as part of the Construction Stage proposal. The successful tender was received from Cockram Constructions Limited at a Building Works Cost of \$16,402,661 (+ GST).
16. The total budget approved by the former Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation on 27 April 2011 for the TBSL project was \$17,031,670 (+GST). The Construction Stage final Gross Project Cost of \$20,437,498 (+GST) exceeds this budget by \$3,406,498 (+GST).
17. The reasons for the cost increases include
- significant cost increases in building materials and services (including structural steel)
 - restricted supply in key trades and
 - a rapidly developing construction sector in northern Queensland with significant competition for resources from new regional projects.
18. These factors are only recently being felt and were not fully understood at the pre-tender estimate stage.
19. Biosecurity Queensland has endorsed the amended budget and the critical need to have a Biosecurity laboratory in northern Queensland.
20. Following a thorough tender review of available options and identification of cost savings - additional funding of \$3,406,498 (+GST) is recommended for approval.
21. The additional funds can be sourced from DAFF's capital budget.

sch3(3) Executive Council Information

JCU Approval

23. JCU has previously provided written approval of the building design, contract documentation and endorsement for the proposal to proceed to Construction. JCU has confirmed agreement with budget changes and cost savings alterations at a Project Control Group meeting on 16 February 2012.



TABL for 12.10.12
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Saint Mark Bank
[Signature]

Miners back moves to trim costs

John McCarthy

MINING companies are making a concerted push to influence the State Government in a bid to shore up the multibillion-dollar pipeline of future projects.

After lobbying over the coal royalties failed, the industry is making overtures to a Cabinet sub-committee established as a conciliatory gesture to cut red tape.

Deputy Premier Jeff Seeney said the regulation cuts in approvals, standards (water discharge, flooded mines, dust, etc) and environment regulations would not make up for the royalty increases.

"It (the royalties) was a significant rise," Mr Seeney said. "What this is about is taking the edge off a painful impost. I believe we can drastically reduce red tape."

The three areas would be forensically examined for cost savings but environmental protections wouldn't be lowered, he said.

"That's not what it is about."

Major projects have been taking five years or more to get

State Government approval and the industry believes if the right moves are made, millions of dollars could be saved.

Xstrata has made attempts to work positively with the Government. It even asked for a "seat at the table" of the sub-committee and offered to provide "a complete and honest analysis" of the Government's intentions.

In a letter to Premier Campbell Newman, Xstrata Coal chief executive Peter Freyburg said the company was disappointed by the royalty increase at a time when high costs, a strong dollar and low coal prices were impacting heavily.

But he said Xstrata Coal would welcome a seat at the table and would take a lead in assisting the committee.

The Government has seen the request as a positive move from Xstrata after more than a week of attacks over the royalty increase, and as an acceptance that the decision won't be reversed.

Mr Seeney said all mining companies could have a seat at

the table, and a report on the sub-committee outcome would be done within 100 days.

Environmental groups could also make submissions but the process was about cutting costs and specific issues. Public servants would also be required to front the committee.

The committee would also have the power to make decisions and change regulations on the spot.

"Something that can be changed by a minister making a decision will be," he said.

The Queensland Resources Council said the sooner it saw some real action from the Government to reduce costs and boost production volumes, the more chance that companies would stay their hand on further mine closures, more cancelled projects and additional job losses.

Continued P34 >>

TWITTER
@johnmccarthy

Miners join effort to cut red tape

>>From P33

"We need to see some big-ticket wins for the coal industry to help turn around the negative sentiment that is now so rampant in the sector," QRC chief executive Michael Roche said.

He said the QRC had submitted an extensive agenda around items such as

fast-tracking the removal of excess water in mines and cutting back the onerous costs of a Bligh government policy that demanded expensive re-engineering of dams on mine sites.

Gas junior Blue Energy said the red tape burden was holding back the industry.



Signed Minutes

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

of the 54th Parliament

Minutes of meeting No. 15E held on Wednesday 12 September 2012 at 9.05am
In Room 5.04, Level 5, Parliamentary Annexe, Parliament House

1. Members Present: Mr Ian Rickuss MP, Chair, Member for Lockyer
Mr Jason Costigan MP, Member for Whitsunday
Mr Sam Cox MP, Member for Thuringowa
Mr David Gibson MP, Member for Gympie
Mr Jon Krause MP, Member for Beaudesert
Mr Shane Knuth MP, Member for Dalrymple
Mrs Anne Maddern MP, Member for Maryborough
Ms Jackie Trad MP, Member for South Brisbane

In Attendance: Mr Rob Hansen, Research Director
Mr Michael Gorringe, Principal Research Officer
Ms Stephanie Cash, Executive Assistant

2. Apologies: Nil

3. Estimates 2012

- **Briefing on the estimates process**
- **Draft estimates hearing program**

Members were advised that a briefing by the Deputy Clerk on the process for the Estimates hearings would be taking place on Thursday, 13 September 2012 at 2pm in the Legislative Chamber.

Members were also provided with a draft program for the Committee's estimates hearing on 12 October 2012 and a draft timetable for the estimates inquiry.

Moved Ms Trad Seconded Mr Cox

That the draft program for the Committee's Estimates hearing on 12 October 2012 be agreed to.

Agreed

4. Close

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9.10am

Confirmed this 29th day of October 2012



Ian Rickuss MP

Chair

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

of the 54th Parliament

Minutes of meeting No. 16E held on Monday 24 September 2012 at 9.16am
by teleconference, Level 6, Parliamentary Annexe, Parliament House

1. Members Present: Mr Ian Rickuss MP, Chair, Member for Lockyer
Mr Jason Costigan MP, Member for Whitsunday
Mr Sam Cox MP, Member for Thuringowa
Mr David Gibson MP, Member for Gympie
Mr Jon Krause MP, Member for Beaudesert
Mrs Anne Maddern MP, Member for Maryborough
Ms Jackie Trad MP, Member for South Brisbane

In Attendance: Mr Rob Hansen, Research Director
Mr Michael Gorringer, Principal Research Officer
Ms Stephanie Cash, Executive Assistant

2. Apologies: Mr Shane Knuth MP, Member for Dalrymple

3. Estimates 2012

- Hearing Program – 12 October 2012**

Members were provided with the Hearing Program for Estimates 2012.

Moved Mr Cox Seconded Mr Costigan.

That the Hearing Program be agreed to.

Agreed

- Timetable for the committee consideration of portfolio budget estimates**

Members were provided with the inquiry timetable for Estimates 2012.

Moved Ms Maddern Seconded Mr Gibson.

That the following timetable be agreed to:

Noon Thursday 27 September	Deadline for the committee to provide their questions on notice to the research director. (SO 182(1), 182(2)).
5.00pm Thursday 27 September	Deadline for the research director to forward the committee's pre-hearing questions, after vetting by the Chair, to ministers (SO 182 (5)). This will allow them nine working days to compile responses.
10.00am Thursday 11 October	Deadline for ministers to provide the research director their answers to the committee's pre-hearing questions (SO 182(3)).

8.30am Friday 12 October	Committee pre-hearing meeting in A35.
(9.00am – 8.30pm) Friday 12 October	Public hearing in the Legislative Council Chamber (SO 178).
5.00pm Tuesday 16 October	Deadline for ministers to provide the research director with their answers to questions taken on notice at the hearing and any clarifying information (SO 183(3)(b)).
10.00am Monday 22 October	Deadline for the research director to send draft report to the chair. This allows the Chair 24 hrs to consider the draft report.
10.00am Tuesday 23 October	Deadline for the research director to forward the chair's draft report to the committee. This allows the committee 48 hrs to consider the report.
10.00am Thursday 25 October	Committee meeting to consider the Chair's draft report (teleconference facility available).
Approx. 10.00am Friday 26 October	Deadline for the committee to provide the research director with any statements of reservations or dissenting reports (within 24 hrs after report adopted) (SO 187(3)).
Monday 29 October	Report tabled with the Clerk (SO189 & 217). The Order of Appointment agreed to by the House on 22 August sets a reporting deadline for all committees of 29 October 2012.

Agreed

- **Pre-hearing questions from the committee – procedural issues**

Members were reminded that the deadline to forward the committee's questions on notice to the Research Director was noon Thursday, 27 September 2012.

4. Close

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9.25am

Confirmed this 29th day of October 2012



Ian Rickuss MP

Chair

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

of the 54th Parliament

Minutes of meeting No. 17 held on Friday 12 October 2012 at 8.32am
Room A35, Parliament House

1. Members Present: Mr Ian Rickuss MP, Chair, Member for Lockyer
Mr Jason Costigan MP, Member for Whitsunday
Mr Sam Cox MP, Member for Thuringowa
Mr David Gibson MP, Member for Gympie
Mr Shane Knuth MP, Member for Dalrymple
Mr Jon Krause MP, Member for Beaudesert
Mrs Anne Maddern MP, Member for Maryborough
Ms Jackie Trad MP, Member for South Brisbane

In Attendance: Mr Rob Hansen, Research Director
Mr Michael Gorringer, Principal Research Officer

2. Apologies: Nil

3. Estimates 2012

- Revised Hearing program – 12 October 2012**

Moved Mr Costigan seconded Mr Krause:

*That the revised program circulated by the research director on 11 October 2012
be agreed to as follows:*

Portfolio	Service Areas	Session Time
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines (3.5 hrs)	- Land Services - Water Services	9.00am - 11.00am
Break		11.00am - 11.30am
	- Mining and Petroleum Services - Mine Safety and Health Services	11.30am - 1.00pm
Break		1.00pm - 2.00pm

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (2.5 hrs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture - Biosecurity Queensland - Agri-Science Queensland 	2.00pm - 3.30pm
Break		3.30pm - 4.00pm
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fisheries - Forestry 	4.00pm - 5.00 pm
Break		5.00pm - 5.30pm
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection (2.5 hrs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environment and Heritage Protection 	5.30pm - 8.00pm

Agreed

- Ministers' opening statements**

Moved Mr Cox seconded Mrs Maddern:

That Ministers may make an opening statement at the hearing lasting up to five minutes at the commencement of the examination of their portfolio estimates.

Agreed

- Broadcasting and rebroadcasting of the hearing**

Moved Ms Trad seconded Mr Krause:

That the broadcasting and rebroadcasting of the committee's estimates hearing shall be subject to the Estimates Committee Hearings - Media Broadcast Rules prepared by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly of the 53rd Parliament.

Agreed

- Direct questioning of officers at the hearing**

The committee noted that, of the officials attending the hearing, members may only directly question directors-general and the Acting CEO of QRAA, Mr Tony O'Dea in accordance with Standing Orders.

- Participation by members other than committee members**

Moved Ms Trad seconded Mr Costigan:

That leave is granted for the following members to participate in the hearing during the nominated sections of the program

Member	Portfolio
Mr Trevor Watts MP	Natural Resources and Mines
Annastacia Palaszczuk MP	Natural Resources and Mines; Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; Environment and Heritage Protection

<i>Tim Mulherin MP</i>	<i>Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; Environment and Heritage Protection</i>
<i>Jo-Anne Miller MP</i>	<i>Natural Resources and Mines; Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; Environment and Heritage Protection</i>

Agreed

4. General Business

- **Catering for the estimates hearing**

The committee resolved that no catering be provided for the hearing and that committee members would make their own arrangements for meals.

5. Close

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8.45am

Confirmed this 29th day of October 2012



Ian Rickuss MP

Chair

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

of the 54th Parliament

Minutes of meeting No. 19 held on Tuesday 23 October 2012 at 4.30pm
via teleconference

1. Members Present: Mr Ian Rickuss MP, Chair, Member for Lockyer
Mr Jason Costigan MP, Member for Whitsunday
Mr Sam Cox MP, Member for Thuringowa
Mr Shane Knuth MP, Member for Dalrymple (from 4.34pm)
Mr Jon Krause MP, Member for Beaudesert
Mrs Anne Maddern MP, Member for Maryborough
Ms Jackie Trad MP, Member for South Brisbane

In Attendance: Ms Erin Pasley, Acting Research Director
Mr Michael Gorringer, Principal Research Officer

2. Apologies: Mr David Gibson MP, Member for Gympie

3. Estimates 2012

- **Draft report**

Moved Mr Cox and Seconded Mrs Maddern:

That the committee adopts Report No.11 as its report, and authorises that the report be tabled and published on Monday, 29 October 2012.

Ms Trad dissented.

The committee divided.

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

NOES – 1 (Ms Trad)

Resolved in the affirmative.

Mr Knuth joined the meeting at 4.34pm. Mr Knuth advised of his intention to dissent to the report.

- **Volume of Additional Information**

The Chair moved:

That the committee authorise the tabling of the following documents to be included in a volume of additional information:

- *Answers to pre-hearing questions on notice and questions taken on notice at the hearing*
- *Information tabled at the hearing*
- *Original signed minutes.*

Agreed.

- **Dissenting reports/Statements of reservation**

Members noted:

That the deadline for dissenting reports or statements of reservation is Wednesday, 24 October 2012 at 5.00pm.

- **Minutes of last Estimates meeting**

The Chair moved:

That the minutes of the last Estimates meeting be certified by the Chair and Deputy Chair for inclusion in the volume of additional information to be tabled.

Agreed.

- **Hearing transcript**

The Chair moved:

That the committee not authorise amendments to the hearing transcript on pages 42 and 46 provided by Minister McVeigh and advise that any clarifications are to be provided by letter to the committee.

Agreed.

4. Close

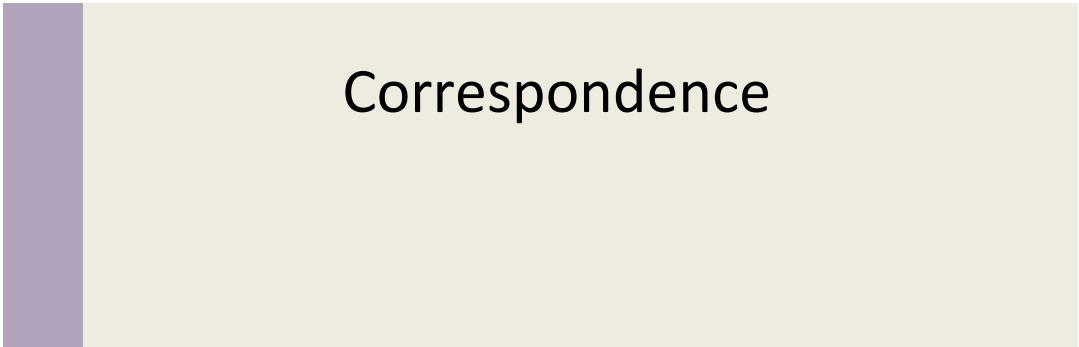
The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4.43pm

Confirmed this 29th day of October 2012



Ian Rickuss MP

Chair



Correspondence

Robert Hansen

From: Toowoomba North Electorate Office
Sent: Tuesday, 25 September 2012 4:05 PM
To: Agriculture Resources and Environment Committee
Subject: Permission to attend 2012 Estimates Committee Hearing

Categories: To be entered into corro, Estimates

Dear Mr Hanson

Trevor would like to ask for permission to sit in on hearings for Natural Resources and Mining on 16 October.

Kind regards

Wendy Strofield
Assistant Electorate Officer
On behalf of



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Robert Hansen

From: Toowoomba North Electorate Office
Sent: Tuesday, 25 September 2012 4:08 PM
To: Agriculture Resources and Environment Committee
Subject: FW: Permission to attend 2012 Estimates Committee Hearing

Categories: To be entered into corro, Estimates

Sorry, on the 12 October.

From: Toowoomba North Electorate Office
Sent: Tuesday, 25 September 2012 4:05 PM
To: Agriculture Resources and Environment Committee
Subject: Permission to attend 2012 Estimates Committee Hearing

Dear Mr Hanson

Trevor would like to ask for permission to sit in on hearings for Natural Resources and Mining on 12 October.

Kind regards

Wendy Strofield
Assistant Electorate Officer
On behalf of



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TIM MULHERIN MP

DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

MEMBER FOR MACKAY



11 October 2012

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

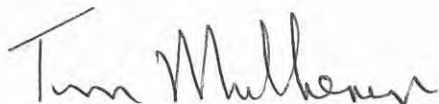

Dear Mr Rickuss

I write regarding the estimates hearing for the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee on 12 October 2012.

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

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this request.

Yours sincerely



Tim Mulherin MP
Deputy Leader of the Opposition

JO-ANN MILLER MP

SHADOW MINISTER FOR HEALTH, NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES, AND HOUSING
MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA



11 October 2012

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

Dear Mr Rickuss

I write regarding the estimates hearing for the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee on 12 October 2012.

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

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jo-Ann Miller".

Jo-Ann Miller MP
Member for Bundamba



3 October 2012

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

Dear Mr Rickuss

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ian Rickuss".

I write regarding the estimates hearing for the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee on 12 October 2012.

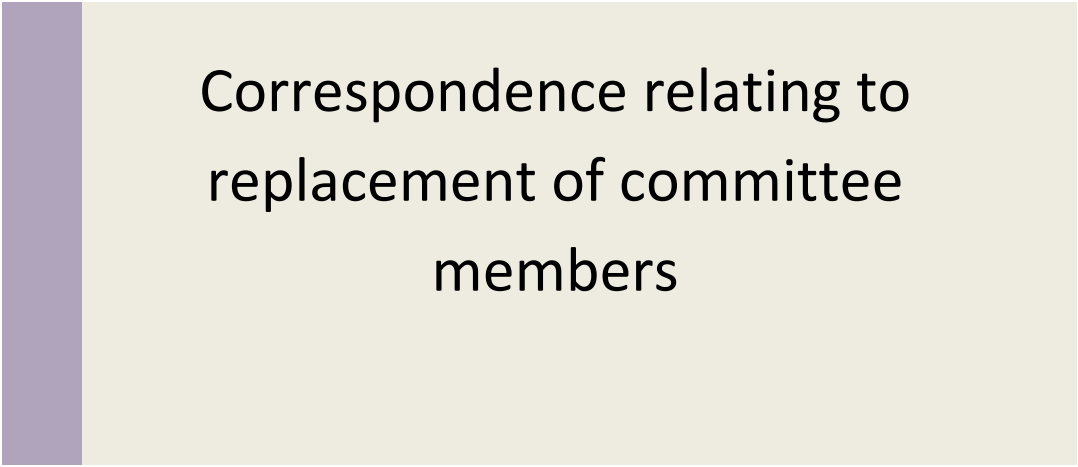
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I look forward to hearing from you regarding this request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Annastacia Palaszczuk".

Annastacia Palaszczuk MP
Leader of the Opposition



Correspondence relating to replacement of committee members

ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
MEMBER FOR INALA



Mr Ian Rickuss MP
Chair
Agriculture, Resources
and Environment Committee
Parliament House Brisbane

Dear Mr Rickuss *Ian*

In accordance with Standing Order 202 I advise of the inability to attend the committee Estimates hearing on the afternoon of the 12th of October by the Member for South Brisbane. I have, therefore, appointed the Member for Mackay to substitute for the member in accordance with the Standing Order for this period.

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

Annastacia Palaszczuk MP
Leader of the Opposition