

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 1

Asked on Friday, 18 July 2025

THE HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON A POWELL)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1 of the Service Delivery Statement, will the Minister outline how the vision articulated in the Crisafulli Government's *Destination 2045: Delivering Queensland's Tourism Future* plan aims to make Queensland Australia's leading tourism destination?

ANSWER:

The Crisafulli Government's *Destination 2045: Delivering Queensland's Tourism Future* (Destination 2045) is a bold and transformative vision.

Built on extensive industry and community input, Destination 2045 maps out how the Crisafulli Government will position Queensland as a global leader in tourism by showcasing our environment, lifestyle, cultures and regions to the world.

Destination 2045 will supercharge Queensland's tourism industry, setting ambitious targets of doubling total visitor expenditure to \$84 billion and increasing direct jobs in the industry to 190,000 by 2045, delivering lasting benefits to Queensland.

To achieve this, the plan focuses on six key pillars:

- **Ecotourism:** Delivering more experiences in nature and responsibly showcasing our natural assets and connecting people to our environment.
- **Events:** Transforming Queensland into Australia's event capital by attracting world-class events for locals and visitors.
- **Connectivity:** Making it easier for people to get here and travel around, and delivering visitors straight to the doorstep of our operators and attractions.
- **Experiences:** Delivering more to see and do by creating world-class attractions through investment and partnerships.
- **Brand Queensland:** Bringing in more visitors through world-class marketing and cementing Queensland's reputation as the home of the holiday.
- **Industry:** Backing our operators through empowering Queensland tourism businesses to modernise and thrive.

Despite the former Labor Government leaving a 95 per cent funding cliff for tourism, the Crisafulli Government is investing more than \$1 billion in tourism over the next four years. This includes \$446 million of new funding over four years to kickstart the delivery of Destination 2045 made up of \$200 million over four years from 2025-26 for product development and aviation attraction; \$100 million over four years from

2025-26 for event attraction; and \$146 million over two years from 2027-28 for Tourism and Events Queensland to continue their vital work.

Significant investments are also being made from 2025-26 to deliver key tourism election commitments:

- \$19.7 million to deliver the next stage of the Wangetti Trail.
- \$15.5 million to upgrade the Smithfield Mountain Bike Trail.
- \$4.4 million to deliver a Palm Island Tourism Development Plan and to build new infrastructure on Palm Island.
- \$5 million to support the proposed Whitsunday Skyway attraction.

Destination 2045 will be delivered through strong partnerships between the Queensland Government, the tourism industry, local governments and key institutions and organisations.

The Destination 2045 vision is not just about growth, it's about creating a tourism industry that is sustainable, inclusive, and resilient. By creating a stronger, more vibrant tourism industry we're also supporting jobs, businesses, and Queenslanders in all corners of our state.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 2

Asked on Friday, 18 July 2025

THE HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON A POWELL)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1 of the Service Delivery Statement, will the Minister explain how the Crisafulli Government is supporting ecotourism product development in Queensland?

ANSWER:

Destination 2045: Delivering Queensland's Tourism Future (Destination 2045) is the Crisafulli Government's roadmap to supercharge Queensland's tourism industry.

The ecotourism pillar of Destination 2045 focuses on unlocking low-impact, high-value opportunities that allow us to protect Queensland's pristine natural environment whilst responsibly sharing it with the world. It emphasises smart planning, managing visitor interactions, and delivering conservation-focused infrastructure to support exceptional visitor experiences.

The 2023 *Growing ecotourism in Queensland* report from the Queensland Audit Office found that, between 2015 and 2023, the former government approved only two ecotourism projects.

Instead of lagging, the Crisafulli Government has an ambitious agenda to make Queensland a world leader in ecotourism, and Destination 2045 outlines several key actions to achieve this:

- Queensland's ecotourism policy – *45 by 45: Getting Queensland Ecotourism Moving*: This policy provides a clear vision for advancing ecotourism, promoting environmental stewardship, land management, and cultural recognition, with guidance on simplifying approvals, reducing duplication, and tailoring support to proponents.
- Encouraging private investment: By supporting new and revitalised tourism infrastructure, agritourism, and other attractions Destination 2045 ensures there's even more for visitors to see and do.
- Cutting red and green tape: By streamlining approvals, boosting industry capability, and supporting innovation, Destination 2045 creates a supportive environment for tourism operators to thrive.

The Crisafulli Government is already fast-tracking projects to position the state as a global hub for ecotourism. The new *Ecotourism Plan for Queensland's Protected Areas 2025–30* also aligns with Destination 2045 and provides a framework for ecotourism in national parks and other protected areas.

With funding support from the Crisafulli Government, the first of 45 new ecotourism experiences promised by Destination 2045 are underway:

- \$19.7 million to deliver the next stage of the Wangetti Trail;
- \$15.5 million to upgrade the Smithfield Mountain Bike Trail;
- \$4.9 million to deliver a Palm Island Tourism Development Plan and to build new infrastructure on Palm Island; and
- \$5 million to support the proposed Whitsunday Skyway attraction.

The Queensland Tourism Cabinet Committee is driving strategic decisions to ensure sustainable growth in the tourism industry, while the landmark integration of the Environment and Tourism portfolios fosters collaboration between these two important sectors. This approach balances environmental conservation with tourism development, protecting Queensland's natural assets while boosting the economy.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 3

Asked on Friday, 18 July 2025

THE HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON A POWELL)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1 of the Service Delivery Statement, will the Minister outline how the Crisafulli Government is supporting Tourism and Events Queensland?

ANSWER:

The Crisafulli Government is determined to ensure the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games provides a generational tourism legacy for our state, long after the last athletes have left. *Destination 2045: Delivering Queensland's Tourism Future* (Destination 2045) is our ambitious plan to take Queensland tourism to even greater heights and the Crisafulli Government's 2025-26 State Budget has not wasted a moment kicking into action.

Through this Budget, the Crisafulli Government has taken steps to restore funding for Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) to ensure it can continue its work to position Queensland as the home of the holiday and the events capital of the nation, delivering sustainable economic growth for the state.

\$146 million of the \$446 million allocated in the 2025-26 State Budget to kickstart delivery of Destination 2045 has been provided to TEQ.

This stands in stark contrast to the previous government's decision to slash TEQ funding to \$52.9 million in 2027-28, nearly \$100 million less than the \$146.6 million allocated in 2024-25. This would have forced TEQ to halve its workforce from 130 to around 65, putting Queensland's international competitiveness at risk.

Under the Crisafulli Government, a fully supported TEQ will play a central role in growing Queensland's events calendar to \$4 billion by 2045, with half of that coming from regional areas; and to increase the value of the business events calendar to \$2 billion.

By ending the previous government's TEQ funding cliff, we are creating a stronger, more vibrant tourism industry, supporting jobs and businesses, and ensuring Queenslanders reap the benefits of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games for many years to come.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 4

Asked on Friday, 18 July 2025

THE HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON A POWELL)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1 of the Service Delivery Statement, will the Minister outline how the Crisafulli Government is supporting Queensland's tourism industry by reducing red tape?

ANSWER:

The Crisafulli Government is committed to supporting Queensland's tourism industry by cutting red and green tape, making it easier for operators to focus on delivering world-class visitor experiences and growing their businesses.

Through *Destination 2045: Delivering Queensland's Tourism Future* (Destination 2045), the Government is streamlining processes, simplifying approvals, and reducing duplication to create a more supportive and efficient environment for tourism operators. Key initiatives that have already started include:

- The introduction of the Tourism Support Hub: We want to make life easier for tourism operators by making it simpler to interact with government. This one-stop shop will cut the number of government touchpoints operators need to engage with, which means less time stuck behind a desk and more time out with customers.
- Streamlined Permitting for Protected Areas: By the end of this year, the Crisafulli Government will introduce legislation into Parliament that enables one single permission for tourism operations on protected areas to streamline the permitting process for businesses. This will ensure that operators can deliver exceptional ecotourism experiences without being bogged down by complex processes.
- Regulatory Reform for Events: The Crisafulli Government has laid the groundwork to review the *Major Events Act 2014* and other relevant legislation to streamline the preparation and delivery of events and support the growth of the Queensland events calendar.

By cutting red tape, the Government is empowering tourism operators to thrive, supporting job creation, and ensuring Queensland remains competitive as a leading tourism destination. This approach is central to the Crisafulli Government's vision for a sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous tourism industry.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 5

Asked on Friday, 18 July 2025

THE HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON A POWELL)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 2 of the Service Delivery Statement, will the Minister advise how the Crisafulli Government's will boost recycling rates in Queensland?

ANSWER:

Under the former government, Queensland sent more waste to landfill than ever before, and had the second worst headline resource recovery rate in the nation – above only the Northern Territory.

The Crisafulli Government is committed to boosting recycling rates and reducing the amount of waste going to landfill in Queensland. That is why the Crisafulli Government has released its draft Queensland Waste Strategy 2025-2030 – *Less Landfill, More Recycling*.

Significant consultation with industry, local governments and community has been undertaken to help ensure the state is implementing practical ways to boost recycling and reduce environmental impacts.

In support of the new push to increase recycling, the Queensland Government has already announced several new programs.

A \$130 million has been announced for the new Resource Recovery Boost Fund, which will help councils invest in infrastructure to reduce their waste levy costs and maximise recycling.

A \$2 million program is underway to support councils to expand collection points for problem batteries like those found in vapes and e-scooters, after more than 200 battery related fires were reported in the last year.

The Crisafulli Government will also support councils to rollout kerbside organics collection services and support innovation and expansion in the resource recovery sector. Other actions addressing priority materials and initiatives will be considered as part of the final Waste Strategy, which will be released in late 2025.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 6

Asked on Friday, 18 July 2025

THE HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON A POWELL)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 2 of the Service Delivery Statement, will the Minister advise how the \$130 million *Resource Recovery Boost Fund* will assist local governments?

ANSWER:

The Crisafulli Government's \$130 million Resource Recovery Boost Fund will deliver funding to local governments to help build the critical waste infrastructure they need to divert waste from landfill and increase recycling.

Since the former Labor Government introduced the waste levy in 2019, household waste sent to landfill has increased, while resource recovery rates have declined.

As a result, Queensland has the second worst resource headline recovery rate in the nation, above only the Northern Territory.

The Crisafulli Government is determined to turn that around, which is why our \$130 million investment in landfill diversion infrastructure will help reduce the cost of Labor's waste levy to councils and deliver better environmental outcomes.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 7

Asked on Friday, 18 July 2025

THE HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON A POWELL)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 2 of the Service Delivery Statement, will the Minister explain how the *More Rangers, Better Neighbours* policy will benefit landholders?

ANSWER:

The Crisafulli Government is determined to manage our protected areas properly and be a better neighbour to landholders than the previous government ever was.

That is why our *More Rangers, Better Neighbours* initiative delivers real outcomes for landholders and communities. The Crisafulli Government recognises that rangers are vital to effective land management by ensuring areas managed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service are well managed and the commitment to being good neighbours is upheld.

Under the *More Rangers, Better Neighbours* initiative ranger numbers will increase by 150 over four years, including 40 specialist fire rangers who were left unfunded by the previous government.

Having more rangers means greater opportunities to engage with neighbours, repair relationships that had previously been allowed to crumble, address priorities across boundaries, and collaboratively deliver management activities that tackle shared challenges such as fire, pest, and weed management.

At the same time, the increase to the number of Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers will support coordinated, landscape-scale management across the State. This includes strengthening on-park and on-country cooperation between the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Indigenous Rangers to share knowledge and jointly deliver activities that maximise outcomes for programs such as fire and pest control, benefiting neighbours and surrounding communities.

The *More Rangers, Better Neighbours* initiative will show landholders the respect they deserve, because that is a fundamental part of the fresh start the Crisafulli Government is delivering.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 8

Asked on Friday, 18 July 2025

THE HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON A POWELL)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 2 of the Service Delivery Statement, will the Minister outline the Crisafulli Government's plan for expanding Queensland's protected area estate?

ANSWER:

The Crisafulli Government is committed to boosting Queensland's protected area estate by working with landholders and the not-for-profit sector.

Despite spending a decade in government and promising to increase Queensland's protected area estate by seventeen per cent, the former government only managed one per cent.

Instead, our commitment is clear: we will add more land to our protected area estate in four years than the previous government did in nearly ten. Importantly, we will do this whilst ensuring that land remains productive and manageable.

Importantly, the Crisafulli Government will ensure that all Queenslanders will still be able to get outdoors and enjoy our natural environment.

The Crisafulli Government will always support farmers and landholders across our state to make informed decisions about the future of their land and be supported in their endeavours.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 9

Asked on Friday, 18 July 2025

THE HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON A POWELL)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 2 of the Service Delivery Statement, will the Minister update the Committee on the status of the Queensland Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner?

ANSWER:

The former Labor Government only provided limited-life funding for the Queensland Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner and its office, due to expire on 31 December 2025.

To enable the continuation of this important role, the Crisafulli Government has committed funding for both the Commissioner and its office from departmental resources.

We are committed to supporting the resource sector in delivering progressive rehabilitation and closure plans, including through industry engagement with the Commissioner to ensure access to leading practice advice.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 10

Asked on Friday, 18 July 2025

THE HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON A POWELL)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 2 of the Service Delivery Statement, will the Minister advise how the Crisafulli Government will support a world-class science and innovation ecosystem?

ANSWER:

The Crisafulli Government is committed to supporting a world-class science and innovation ecosystem through targeted science, technology and innovation investments in partnership with industry to deliver tangible benefits to Queensland.

We will continue to support researchers, innovators, and the private sector to address some of the biggest challenges the world faces. This support helps innovators and innovative businesses to start, scale and stay here in Queensland, where they will strengthen the economy and create new jobs.

Partnerships with the Queensland Innovation Living Lab, the City of Moreton Bay and Urban Utilities will open new opportunities in 2025 for Queensland's innovators and innovative businesses. In 2025, a three-year innovation partnership with the National Rugby League (NRL), including the NRL Magic Round Tech Showcase was launched.

Through continued investment of nearly \$5 million in the Ignite programs, including Ignite Ideas, Ignite Spark and Ignite+, the Government will support innovative businesses to bring new products and services to market, and provide tailored business support to accelerate their growth and global reach.

A world-class ecosystem needs to build new international partnerships to accelerate the development and application of Queensland's science and innovation. In 2025-26, \$1.821 million has been allocated for strategic international science partnerships that leverage external resources from domestic and international research, industry, and government partners.

The Queensland Government is investing \$25.3 million in science-based innovation in 2025-26 for programs in quantum and advanced technologies. Through the Research Infrastructure Co-investment Fund \$5 million will be invested in 2025-26 to progress projects in priority areas including critical minerals, quantum, biomedical and energy.

\$1.5 million will be expended in 2025-26 as part of the \$7 million Regional University Industry Collaboration program, helping to break down barriers to commercialisation in Queensland's regions, through supporting small to medium enterprises to partner with regional universities on joint projects.

The Government is continuing to engage Queenslanders of all ages in science, inspiring young people to study science and supporting talented science educators. The 2025 Engaging Science Grants program awarded \$500,000 across 28 projects, supporting STEM related events and activities.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 11

Asked on Friday, 18 July 2025

THE HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON A POWELL)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS, including page 1, will the Minister advise the current total land area of Queensland's Protected Area separated into public and private protected area totals, and broken down by tenure type?

ANSWER:

Queensland currently has 14.86 million hectares of protected areas (as at 24 July 2025).

The current area represents 8.59 per cent of Queensland's landmass, the lowest proportion of any state or territory in Australia. The former government committed to protecting 17 per cent of Queensland but, over nearly a decade, delivered only around one per cent growth.

A breakdown of the public and private protected area totals, by tenure types, is provided below:

CATEGORY	AREA (HECTARES)* *Rounded
Protected Area (Public)	
National Park (Scientific)	53,191
National Park	6,858,113
National Park (Aboriginal Land)	79,707
National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land)	2,651,272
Conservation Park	93,553
Resources Reserve	127,512
Total Protected Area (Public)	9,863,348
Protected Area (Private)	
Special Wildlife Reserve	64,407
Nature Refuge	4,930,731
Coordinated Conservation Area	2,121
Total Protected Area (Private)	4,997,259

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 12

Asked on Friday, 18 July 2025

THE HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON A POWELL)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 5 of the SDS and protected areas, on 1 June 2025 the Crisafulli Government announced the addition of more than 8,700 hectares to Queensland's national parks and nature refuges. Will the Minister provide:

- a. breakdown of the "more than 6,550 hectares" (referenced in the media release of 1 June 2025) to be added to the State's national park conservation area by name, tenure and whether these transfers commenced prior to 26 October 2024; and
- b. in respect of the 2,150 hectares/18 new nature refuges, how many of these conservation agreement negotiations commenced prior to 26 October 2024 by overall number and land size?

ANSWER:

- a. A breakdown of the additions to the State's national park conservation area is provided below:

PROTECTED AREA	ADDITION (HECTARES)
Curtis Island National Park	431
Danbulla National Park	25
Girramay National Park	5
Girringun National Park	53
Japoon National Park	1
Maalan National Park	5
Malbon Thompson Range National Park	5,953
Millstream Falls National Park	62
Tully Falls National Park	46
Tully Gorge National Park	2

- b. These 18 new nature refuges were gazetted by the Crisafulli Government.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 13

Asked on Friday, 18 July 2025

THE HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON A POWELL)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 5 of the SDS and protected areas, under the former Miles Labor government, nearly 1 million hectares of land was delivered for future national parks as the Protected Area Strategy. Will the Minister advise on the status of the tenure upgrades to national park on the following major acquisitions, including the dates at which each tenure upgrade occurred or is expected to occur:

- a. Bramwell/Richardson Station
- b. Melrose Station
- c. Tonkoro Station
- d. Vergemont Station; and
- e. Kendall River Station?

ANSWER:

All tenures have been purchased.

The dedication of land at Bramwell/Richardson Stations and Kendall River Station will occur once negotiations on relevant Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA) are complete.

The owner of land at Melrose and Tonkoro Stations was granted a Licence Deed to transition their agribusiness interests away from the property. Dedication as a national park will occur once these arrangements conclude.

Work to progress the dedication of land at Vergemont Station is underway.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 14

Asked on Friday, 18 July 2025

THE HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON A POWELL)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 9 of the SDS and the Science service area within the department, the LNP did not release a Science policy, or platform, prior to the election. Will the Minister outline the Government's priorities, programs and any funding allocations and milestones for this vital service area?

ANSWER:

The Crisafulli Government is committed to backing science in Queensland.

The Crisafulli Government is currently focused on engaging with key stakeholders to shape and better manage science policy going forward. These include universities, research institutes, industry, businesses and place-based organisations.

In 2025-26, the Queensland Government is continuing its substantial support for science to discover solutions and drive prosperity in Queensland.

Programs, funding allocations and milestones include:

- \$5 million in 2025-26 from the \$15 million Research Infrastructure Co-investment Fund to progress projects in priority areas including critical minerals, quantum, biomedical and energy;
- \$1.5 million in 2025-26 from the \$7 million Regional University Industry Collaboration program which aims to increase industry engagement and commercialisation in regional Queensland by connecting Small to Medium Enterprises with regional universities to undertake collaborative projects, supported by business-matched vouchers of up to \$50,000;
- \$1.075 million in 2025-26 for the Science into Industry Co-investment Program including support for the \$238 million Solutions for Manufacturing Advanced Regenerative Therapies Cooperative Research Centre, known as the SMART CRC;
- \$1.821 million in 2025-26 for strategic international science partnerships that leverage external resources from domestic and international research, industry and government partners including the Queensland-Germany Bioeconomy Collaborative Science Program, the Queensland-Bavaria Collaborative Research Program, the Queensland-Chinese Academy of Sciences Collaborative Science Fund and the Queensland-Smithsonian and Queensland-Cooper Hewitt Fellowships (USA);
- \$25.3 million in 2025-26 for programs across quantum and advanced technologies sectors; and

- the 2025 Engaging Science Grants program awarded \$500,000 across 28 projects, receiving grants of up to \$20,000 to support a range of STEM related events and activities that engage students and communities with scientists and provide an opportunity for participation in science-based activities.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 15

Asked on Friday, 18 July 2025

THE HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON A POWELL)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 10 of the SDS and Advance Queensland, the LNP did not release an Innovation policy or platform prior to the election. Will the Minister outline:

- a. the Crisafulli Government's priorities for innovation in Queensland; and
- b. whether the Government remains committed to the former Miles Labor Government's Advance Queensland – Innovation for a Future Economy 2022–2032 Roadmap and all its related grant programs and initiatives; and
- c. outline any changes made since 26 October 2024 to Advance Queensland programs, including any changes to funding or milestones.

ANSWER:

- a. The Crisafulli Government is committed to enabling the growth of a world-class, connected and sustainable innovation ecosystem in Queensland. In 2025-26, this will include partnerships that connect customers with Queensland innovations, support for innovative businesses to bring new ideas and products closer to market, and initiatives that deliver a better lifestyle through a stronger economy.
- b. The Crisafulli Government recognises innovation as a driver of productivity, competitiveness and prosperity in the State and the importance of creating the right environment for our innovators to grow their ideas, businesses, and highly skilled workforces here in Queensland. In 2025-26, the Government will spend \$100.186 million on the Innovation service area, including support for new activities and new partnerships, and milestone payments under existing programs and initiatives.

As part of a refresh of support for innovation and science in the State, the Government will consult with stakeholders in the innovation ecosystem to understand their needs, their challenges and the opportunities they see, to ensure investments are being made where it matters most.

- c. In 2025-26, ongoing funding will support new activity under the following innovation initiatives: Corporate Innovation Network including the Private Sector Pathways Program; Ignite programs; Backing Female Founders including the new Female Founders Investment Readiness Pilot; and South East Queensland Innovation Economy Fund which is jointly funded by the Australian Government.

Funding committed to date will also see the First Nations Innovation Acceleration Program and Regional Enablers Program continue to be delivered in 2025-26 under existing contractual commitments.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 16

Asked on Friday, 18 July 2025

THE HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON A POWELL)—

QUESTION:

With reference to Page 51 of Budget Paper 4 – Budget Measures – will the Minister advise, in relation to the *Connecting Queensland* fund as part of the *Destination 2045* tourism plan:

- a. total fund amount
- b. expected date of Round 1
- c. eligibility criteria; and
- d. list of regional locations to be supported (routes, including carrier)?

ANSWER:

The Crisafulli Government is backing tourism operators by bringing more domestic and international visitors to Queensland and making it easier to get them out into our regions.

The Connecting Queensland Fund (CQF) is a partnership with the private sector to secure more direct international and domestic flights into and around Queensland and to rebuild and grow Queensland's visitor economy with improved domestic connections to regional tourism attractions. This will provide more seats, more visitors, and support more jobs while also providing additional freight capacity for Queensland produce and other exports.

In relation to the specific details requested:

- a. The CQF is a new investment of \$75 million. This builds on the existing Attracting Aviation Investment Fund and takes the Crisafulli Government's total support for aviation to nearly \$130 million over the next four years.
- b. The CQF is a rolling fund, so there are no specified rounds for funding. Proposals are assessed as they are received within the timeframes set out in the funding framework.
- c. Eligibility criteria will be released when applications open.
- d. As this is an application-based program, it is not possible to provide a predetermined list of regional locations and carriers to be supported. Applications for funding support will be developed by Queensland's airports in collaboration with airlines, and submitted to the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation and Tourism and Events Queensland for assessment.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 17

Asked on Friday, 18 July 2025

THE HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON A POWELL)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide a full list of all grant programs administered by the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, including for each grant:

- a. current name of grant
- b. former name of grant (if changed since 1 November 2024)
- c. date of first round
- d. grant amount
- e. eligibility criteria (including noting any changes that have been made since 1 November 2024)
- f. total amount expended to date
- g. total applications for the grant (by financial year since first round)
- h. total successful applications for the grant (by financial year since first round); and
- i. current status/round.

ANSWER:

The information requested by the Committee is broad with no specific timeframe identified. The Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (the department) has several grant programs that span numerous years. In addition, the information requested is not centrally located with grant programs being managed across multiple systems and areas of the department. Gathering the required information would place unreasonable research requirements on the department.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 18

Asked on Friday, 18 July 2025

THE HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON A POWELL)—

QUESTION:

With reference to Page 21 of the Service Delivery Statement – will the Minister advise total funding in (a) 2025-26 and (b) across the Forward Estimates to be provided directly or indirectly to Regional Tourism Operators and Non-Government Organisations to hold events across Queensland, broken down by fund name/type, region, and administering agency (e.g. Tourism and Events Queensland, Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation)?

ANSWER:

The Crisafulli Government has an ambitious vision to attract world-class events to Queensland as part of *Destination 2045: Delivering Queensland Tourism Future*. Destination 2045 aims to increase the value of Queensland's events calendar to \$4 billion, including a \$2 billion regional events calendar.

A fundamental part of this increased investment was rectifying the previous government's funding cliffs for the two agencies referenced in the question. Under the previous government, funding for the Tourism division of the department was set to decrease from \$160 million in 2024-25 to just \$7.6 million in 2028-29. Similarly, funding for Tourism and Events Queensland was set to be cut from \$146.6 million in 2024-25 to \$52.9 million in 2027-28.

Through the 2025-26 State Budget, \$100 million over four years has been allocated to support event attraction, including mega and strategic events and additional support for business and regional events.

The Queensland Government cannot share total mega and strategic event funding or major and business event investment funding, as this involves both the disclosure of commercial-in-confidence information and the risk of undermining Queensland's competitiveness. Making information public may inadvertently put Queensland's negotiating position at risk should other organisations or departments become aware of investment levels.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 19

Asked on Friday, 18 July 2025

THE HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON A POWELL)—

QUESTION:

With additional staffing and funding for the QPWS of \$85 million (SDS, p. 2), can the Minister advise how this will be used to improve Noosa region protected areas, and advise:

- a. the timeline for the release of the Cooloola Recreation Area (CRA) Management Plan and details of any funding allocated to action recommendations
- b. what additional resourcing, including staffing numbers, are allocated for Noosa National Parks for the identified risks of fire, visitor impacts and invasive flora and fauna
- c. what funding has been allocated to specific strategies designed to manage increased visitor number, including drones for monitoring?

ANSWER:

The Crisafulli Government's first budget lays to the foundations for a fresh start and delivers exactly what we said we would do.

That is why the 2025-26 Budget supports our commitment of \$84.6 million over five years to the *More Rangers, Better Neighbours* program for Queensland's national parks – the largest single additional investment ever into the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service's ranger workforce.

- a. The Great Sandy National Park (Cooloola Section) Management Plan is currently being considered. The Management Plan, when gazetted, will be publicly available.
- b. & c. The Crisafulli Government is ensuring that Noosa's National Parks are managed properly and are able to be responsibly shared with all Queenslanders.

FTEs and funding allocations from the new *More Rangers, Better Neighbours* program will also be invested in 2025-26 delivering fire management activities in the Cooloola and Noosa areas. A positive recent example is a joint planned burn undertaken by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Queensland Fire Department and Noosa Council in Noosa National Park in preparation for the forthcoming fire season.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 20

Asked on Friday, 18 July 2025

THE HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON A POWELL)—

QUESTION:

With the Government allocating \$446 million for the Destination 2045 Plan (SDS, p. 2), can the Minister provide details on the 45 ecotourism projects, including allocations of funding for each and how the Plan will mitigate the impacts of increased tourism including what funds have been allocated for this, and what allocations have been made for grant funding to organisations and local governments to develop and promote regenerative tourism?

ANSWER:

The Crisafulli Government has an ambitious vision to make Queensland a world leader in ecotourism under the *Destination 2045: Delivering Queensland's Tourism Future* plan (Destination 2045), ensuring that we continue to protect our natural environment and responsibly share it with the world.

The 2023 *Growing ecotourism in Queensland* report from the Queensland Audit Office found that the previous government had only approved two ecotourism projects between 2015 and 2023.

That is why the Crisafulli Government's *45 by 45: Getting Queensland Ecotourism Moving (45 by 45)* plan will kickstart Queensland's ecotourism future.

All projects to be delivered under *45 by 45* are yet to be fully identified as these are to be delivered over the next 20 years, in close consultation with industry. Funding for the following eco-tourism projects was allocated in the 2025-26 State Budget:

- \$5 million over two years for Whitsundays Skyway;
- \$15.5 million over four years for Smithfield Mountain Biking Trails;
- \$4.9 million over four years for Palm Island Walking Trails;
- \$19.7 million over two years for the Wangetti Trail (bringing the total funding allocated so far to \$59.1 million, including \$8 million from the Australian Government);
- \$1.3 million in 2025-26 for Springbrook National Park visitor facilities (with total overall funding of \$17 million allocated for this project); and
- \$1.1 million in 2025-26 for Crater Lakes National Park – Lake Eacham Day Use area (total overall funding of \$10.3 million allocated to this project).

Consideration of the balance between conservation and tourism development was key to the development of Destination 2045 and Queensland's ecotourism policy *45 by 45*. The policy sets out guiding principles for ecotourism development and a clear definition in accordance with the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. All ecotourism projects must go through the required environmental assessments.