

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1

asked on 30 June 2017

QUESTION:

With reference to page 13 of the SDS, will the Minister please advise the committee on the Government's efforts to safely administer the Texas Silver Mine site, and other projects undertaken by the Abandoned Mines Program?

ANSWER:

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines continues to focus on public safety as its number one priority for the Abandoned Mine Lands Program (AMLPL).

The Texas Silver Mine has unique hazards and risks associated with the site, as do the other sites within the AMLP.

Management of these hazards and risks across the AMLP occurs at a site level, and typically includes:

- implementing departmental workplace health and safety policies and procedures where applicable;
- preparing health, safety and environmental management systems; and
- developing appropriate emergency management systems.

The most significant risk at the Texas Silver Mine site continues to be contaminated water management. The volume of contaminated water has been effectively reduced—primarily through active evaporation systems and irrigation of treated water.

The community surrounding the Texas Silver Mine continues to be regularly consulted through the distribution of community updates.

More broadly, in 2016–17, the key achievements of the AMLP were:

- inspecting 96 abandoned mine features in the Opalton, Herberton, Paluma and Palmer River areas, and closing out of public risks for 50 features, including backfilling of 15 open shafts;
- making safe 32 historic shafts in Gympie and Charters Towers, and investigating 22 reports of subsidence;
- making safe by backfilling a further two subsidences in the Ipswich locality;
- undertaking key projects at Mount Morgan related to contaminated water management, investigating potential tourism options, and working to facilitate potential tailings reprocessing by Carbine Resources;
- removing 5080 tonnes of historic stockpile from the old sand mining plant area at Rainbow Beach;
- decommissioning the Butchers Creek Dam in the Palmer Goldfield Resources Reserve, removing stability concerns raised by downstream residents; and
- continuing to administer the Collingwood Park State Guarantee.

Priorities for 2017–18 AMLP include:

- ongoing assessment and closing out of public safety risks at smaller abandoned mine sites close to communities;

- starting remediation works at the Target Gully tailings dam at Irvinebank;
- working with industry to explore innovative reprocessing opportunities to meet remediation challenges; and
- participating in a multi-agency response to disclaimed mines and mines at risk of ceasing operation.

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 2
asked on 30 June 2017

QUESTION:

With reference to page 2 of the SDS, can the Minister detail projects that have been progressed by the Coordinator General to provide jobs, growth and economic opportunity for Queensland?

ANSWER:

Since February 2015, the Coordinator-General has made 238 statutory decisions (as at 17 July 2017) under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (SDPWO Act).

Under this Act, the Coordinator-General has wide-ranging powers to facilitate and approve large-scale and complex projects. These decisions have played a key role in progressing major projects closer to delivery.

Since February 2015, the Coordinator-General:

- made 238 statutory decisions.
- approved six major projects and their EISs – these include Nathan Dam and Pipelines; Coopers Gap Wind Farm; Lower Fitzroy River Infrastructure; Sunshine Coast Airport Expansion; Santos GLNG Gas Field Development; and the Red Hill Mining Lease.
- approved 2 major project change requests for Cross River Rail and Hummock Hill Island project.
- declared 10 new coordinated projects – Inland Rail Gowrie to Helidon; Inland Rail Helidon to Calvert; Inland Rail Calvert to Kagaru; the Olive Downs Project; South Burnett Coal Project; KUR-World Integrated Eco-Resort; Coopers Gap Wind Farm; Lindeman Great Barrier Reef Resort; NT Link; and the Three Rivers Irrigation Project.
- recommended the declaration of seven new prescribed projects – the Kidston Project (originally declared in March 2016 and then the re-declared expanded project in June 2017); the Isaac Plains Mining Complex; Dugald River project; Adani Combined Project; Ravenswood Expansion Project; and the Capricorn Copper Mine and Refurbishment and Restart Project. Eight prescribed project declaration dates were also extended.
- recommended the declaration of two new critical infrastructure projects – the Adani Combined Project and the Kidston Project.
- monitored and supported 13 prescribed projects.
- recommended the declaration of the Bundaberg State Development Area which occurred on 10 February 2017.

- commenced public consultation on the declaration of a potential Cairns South State Development Area on 11 July 2017.
- approved 51 development applications in State Development Areas (SDA) across the State, including for Adani's 390km rail line in the Galilee Basin and Abbot Point SDAs; Terminal 0 at the Abbot Point SDA; a power station and airport in the Galilee Basin SDA; a freight logistics facility in the Bromelton SDA; a freight terminal and solar farm in the Townsville SDA; and the Northern Oil Advanced Biofuels Pilot Plant in the Gladstone SDA.

Fourteen coordinated projects are currently under environmental impact assessment (EIS) by the Coordinator-General. These projects have a total capital value of around \$20.7 billion, and represent more than 33,900 construction and operational jobs.

The Coordinator-General's EIS assessment times have been streamlined, with a 56 per cent time reduction achieved.

SDA applications are being approved in only 35.5 per cent of the statutory timeframe.

The quality of EIS process documents has also been enhanced through more robust project management procedures and more effective proponent liaison.

Conditions that are set on projects in the Coordinator-General's evaluation reports have also been strengthened and progressively made more outcome-focussed.

In addition, 19 major projects are currently being facilitated by the Coordinator-General such as the Dugald River Project; Capricorn Copper; Amrun project; Kidston Solar and Pumped Storage Hydro Project; Santos Gas Field Development Project; and QCoal's Byerwen Coal Mine. Thirteen of these are prescribed projects. These projects are expected to create around 29,000 jobs.

Recent milestones for these projects include:

- Adani Project – June 2017 Final Investment Decision approval for the Carmichael Coal Mine and Rail project announced, opening of regional headquarters in the Townsville.
- Amrun Project – Construction is now 28 per cent complete.
- Byerwen Coal project – April 2017, mining leases granted to enable the project to proceed to construction. Stage 1 construction commenced on 12 June 2017.
- Coopers Gap Wind Farm – has received Material Change of Use approval and an Energy Generation Licence and is expected to start construction by the end of 2017.
- Dugald River Project – substantial completion of the processing plant, all earthworks, civil works and structural steelwork have been completed.
- Isaac Plains Mining Complex – Mining and transportation infrastructure is now in place including dragline, coal handling and processing plant, and rail load-out facilities. Rail and port access agreements are in place, exporting through to Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal.
- Kidston Project – Construction has commenced on 50MW solar farm.
- QGC – All of the gas wells have been drilled, well site facilities installed and hundreds of kilometres of gathering pipelines, cables and gas trunklines are now

in place; the construction of a compression station is nearing completion with civil and below ground works now finished.

- Ravenswood Expansion Project – Environmental Authority amendment approved for the Sarsfield Expansion and Nolans east.
- Santos Gas Field Development project – construction of Stage 1 (Scotia) is 30 per cent complete.
- Shute Harbour Marina – 10 year development lease granted by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

In addition, the Coordinator-General is responsible for the planning, establishment and ongoing management of 10 SDAs throughout Queensland. The SDAs cover approximately 186,000 hectares and fall into three broad types; industrial hubs, multi-user infrastructure corridors and major infrastructure sites.

The most recently approved SDA, is the Bundaberg SDA which was declared in February 2017 to meet the demands of port-related industries and other industrial activities around the Port of Bundaberg. The Bundaberg SDA will facilitate economic growth and employment opportunities in the Wide Bay Burnett region.

The Coordinator-General is currently preparing a development scheme for the Bundaberg SDA to support the continued growth of the Bundaberg Port and provide opportunities for major new industries to locate in the area.

The Coordinator-General has also been investigating a potential Cairns South SDA and is currently consulting on it.

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 3
asked on 30 June 2017

QUESTION:

With reference to page 3 of the SDS, can the Minister outline how Queensland continues to play a leading role in resolving Native Title Claims?

ANSWER:

Queensland continues its constructive approach to resolving native title claims by, wherever possible, working towards negotiated settlements with native title applicants.

The native title process is controlled by the Federal Court of Australia, but that does not mean that the state inevitably finds itself in long and expensive trials.

Indeed, the opposite is the case and, of the 141 claimant applications finalised in Queensland dating from the original Mabo decision, only 17 (including Mabo) were decided by trial because a negotiated settlement could not be reached.

Native title is not a grant bestowed by the government, but is a pre-existing right that may still survive from the time of settlement. For native title rights to be recognised today, Indigenous people must be able to establish continuity of connection to the claim area and that native title has not been extinguished by valid acts undertaken by the Crown.

This is not a simple task and the evolution of native title law continues to throw up new challenges.

During 2016–17, Queensland successfully negotiated eight native title claimant applications—all arrived at with the agreement of the parties. Of these eight matters, seven were determinations that native title existed and one was that native title did not exist.

These results were achieved without resorting to expensive litigation, and I can affirm the Queensland Government's support for this sensible and relatively cost-effective approach.

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 4

asked on 30 June 2017

QUESTION:

With reference to page 3 of the SDS, will the Minister please outline for the committee how the Government is modernising Queensland's Title Registry operations and the benefit this will provide to Queenslanders?

ANSWER:

The Titles Registry in the Department of Natural Resources and Mines has an integral role underpinning Queensland's economic framework, and facilitating efficient property and mortgage markets across the state. More than 750,000 title dealings are lodged annually in the Titles Registry.

Queensland has been an early adopter of the national electronic conveyancing platform—Property Exchange Australia, known as PEXA. E-conveyancing is a significant micro-economic reform offering the potential for major efficiencies across the property, finance and legal sectors. Still in its infancy, it already delivers efficiencies to industry subscribers and the Titles Registry.

Currently, around five per cent of title dealings in Queensland are lodged through the e-conveyancing platform. For many years, the registry has delivered efficiencies to industry by allowing for electronic lodgement of title dealings as images over the internet. About 55 per cent of dealings are lodged through this facility. E-conveyancing builds on these efficiencies.

The Titles Registry continues to modernise its operations in line with its vision for a digital future. Extensive development and testing has ensured seamless interoperability between the automated titles system and the national platform's digital environment.

The e-conveyancing platform provides a fully digital workspace for lawyers and financiers to prepare, execute and settle a range of property transactions, electronically disburse funds and register interests on title, regardless of where the subscriber or property is located. Currently, the platform primarily accommodates basic transfer and mortgage-related dealings, as well as caveats and settlement notices.

Parties no longer need to travel and physically meet for settlements. They no longer need to exchange paper documents and prepare cheques. Stakeholders have greater certainty that settlements will occur as scheduled, rather than failing due to minor issues, such as misspelling of a name on a document or a discrepancy on a bank cheque. These types of relatively common impediments are removed through the use of electronic business rules, and pre-population and validation of pertinent data in the digital workspace.

Funds can be cleared and ownership and other interests can be registered to give legal title in a matter of minutes after settlement rather than days in the paper world.

Ongoing enhancements to the automated titles system are broadening the scope for title transactions that can be processed digitally in Queensland.

Key industry stakeholders generally support further modernisation of the titling system and practices, and they continue to be consulted on proposals to broaden the scope of dealings available through the e-conveyancing platform, and to make other process enhancements.

Minor changes to the land title laws are providing the ability to streamline and modernise certain provisions to support national consistency and deliver further benefits to industry, the community and to the Titles Registry.

This approach to modernising and rationalising title transactions across the Australian economy is currently being realised in Queensland through adoption of the new National Mortgage Form and, in the near future, the introduction of a National Priority Notice to replace and broaden the scope of the existing settlement notice framework.

It is expected that, as more dealing types are added to the system functionality, more subscribers will come online, higher volumes of transactions will be conducted online and associated efficiencies will be realised across the economy.

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 5
asked on 30 June 2017

QUESTION:

With reference to page 15 of the SDS, will the Minister please detail how the government is aiding the sustainable management of water in the Queensland Murray Darling Basin Catchment?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government aids the sustainable management of water primarily through the Queensland *Water Act 2000* and its water planning framework. Importantly, the Water Act is in alignment with COAG's National Water Initiative that seeks to move governments towards achieving a nationally compatible water market, and regulatory and planning-based system for surface water and groundwater across Australia.

The Water Act provides for the Minister to prepare water plans for the allocation and sustainable management of water to meet Queensland's future needs. Water plans manage water resources—water in a watercourse, lake or spring, overland flow and groundwater—in an area to achieve a sustainable balance between water for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders, industry, irrigators, town water supply, recreation, tourism, basic rights (stock and domestic) and the environment.

Queensland water plans and their associated instruments:

- secure water supplies for existing water user;
- provide a long-term water allocation and management strategy for a plan area;
- provide strategies to protect water flows for the environment;
- identify specific monitoring, reporting and research requirements to improve data and knowledge.

When a water plan for an area is prepared, the following are assessed:

- water availability for existing water allocation and use (e.g. entitlement holders), seasonal variability and community and environmental needs;
- economic opportunities, including the water needs for mining, agricultural, industrial and urban uses, as well as cultural, recreation tourism and fishing uses;
- sources of future demand, including opportunities and needs arising from growth in existing and emerging activities, and population growth associated with diversifying regional economies.
- significant climate change impacts on water availability.

Furthermore the Commonwealth *Water Act 2007* requires Basin States to prepare water resource plans in accordance with the Basin Plan 2012. Queensland's water plans are part of the broader water resource plan 'package' submitted to the Commonwealth for accreditation under the Basin Plan.

Queensland's Warrego, Parro, Bulloo and Nebine water plan is the first state plan to be accredited by the Commonwealth in accordance with the Basin Plan. This followed significant consultation during the draft and final plan preparation with stakeholders (including Aboriginal people, irrigators, communities and government agencies). The consultation is continuing for the other Queensland Murray-Darling valley plans, as part of the draft plan development. Aboriginal people are being engaged at a much greater level than has occurred in the past to ensure that their objectives and values for water can be considered in this planning activity.

The Basin Plan aims to protect and restore the environmental health of surface water and groundwater of the Basin, while optimising the social and economic outcomes arising from the use of water from the system.

Importantly, the Basin Plan establishes long-term sustainable diversions limits (SDLs) for surface water and groundwater units within each plan area of the Basin. SDLs represent the sustainable level of water use in consideration of consumptive take, while ensuring there is enough water left in the system to achieve healthy surface water and groundwater environments. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) has undertaken various scientific programs as part of the initial Basin Plan development and, more recently, as part of the Northern Basin Review. The Northern Basin Review also considered the social economic impacts of the proposed water recovery volume to ensure a better balance can be found. These activities ensure that the best available science is being used to assess the needs of the environmental and community impacts.

Each basin state, through its accredited water resource plans, must ensure the SDL is maintained, that is the take of water in a plan area or unit must not exceed the SDL set for that plan area; however, in some Basin Plan units—such as the Central-Condamine alluvium on the Darling Downs—the current level of take of water (or baseline diversion limit) exceeds the SDL.

The Australian Government has committed to recovering the gap between the baseline diversion limit and the SDL either by direct purchase or through infrastructure measures that increase on-farm water efficiency. This recovery of water, in conjunction with accredited water resource plans, ensures that water is managed sustainably to the SDL set for the particular plan area or unit within the Basin.

In recognition of the negative socio-economic impacts that water recovery may have on regional Queensland communities, the Australian Government provides funding through the Regional Economic Diversification Programme to develop alternative industries/activities that result in communities being less reliant on water. Activities to date include investment in tourism infrastructure; identifying high-value horticulture opportunities, and improvements to the water use efficiency of irrigated agriculture; local workforce development to connect agriculture and resource sectors; and a project to combine new infrastructure with existing cultural bodies to produce new products and tourism packages, while also developing sustainable cultural business enterprises and employment opportunities. Finally, the Queensland Government support for the recent Northern Basin Review by the MDBA is conditional on additional assistance being provided to Queensland communities impacted by water recovery.

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 6

asked on 30 June 2017

QUESTION:

With reference to page 6 of the SDS, can the Minister please update the committee on the progress of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games venues, and how the Government is ensuring the delivery of the best ever Commonwealth Games?

ANSWER:

The Department of State Development is responsible for management of the planning, design, procurement and construction of three new world-class venues and major upgrades to a further seven venues required for hosting the Commonwealth Games.

With less than one year to go, I am pleased to announce that the delivery of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games venue infrastructure is on-track to be finished under budget, with all competition venues now completed.

These venues have been delivered well ahead of the Games, allowing time for thorough testing of all facilities before competition starts in April 2018.

The Commonwealth Games Federation, Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation and the Queensland Government have all worked tirelessly to deliver world-class venues that will provide great outcomes not only for the Games, but also well into the future.

For the \$320 million investment in sport and community infrastructure managed by my department, extensive stakeholder consultation, thorough project brief development and master planning, had to be undertaken to ensure optimum legacy outcomes for all venues.

More than 10,400 individual people have worked on-site in the construction of the Games venues, providing jobs with invaluable training and employment opportunities across a number of industries.

Beyond the Commonwealth Games, Queenslanders will now have a range of world-class facilities to train and compete in thanks to the Government's investment in permanent sport and community infrastructure.

I am very pleased to say that already, long-term benefits are being realised for the completed venues.

For example, less than a year after completion, the new Coomera Indoor Sports Centre is cost neutral, with revenue from bookings already exceeding the venue's operating expenditure. This is remarkable given the original target for achieving this level of use was three years post construction.

The second of the completed new venues, the Queensland State Velodrome, was renamed the Anna Meares Velodrome at its official opening in November 2016. More than just a track cycling facility, its design incorporates mixed-use courts and function centres. It now caters for a range of additional community sport and recreation uses in Brisbane.

The third new venue my department delivered was the Carrara Sports and Leisure Centre. It is a multi-purpose facility which includes two large indoor halls for mixed-use sports. The venue was completed in April 2017, in time to host its first major international sporting event in May 2017, the Sudirman Cup, a biennial international badminton championship held for the first time outside Asia and Europe since its inception in 1989.

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 7
asked on 30 June 2017

QUESTION:

With reference to page 2 of the SDS, can the Minister outline what the Queensland Government has done to maintain and enhance Queensland's world class spatial systems?

ANSWER:

During the last 12 months, the Queensland Government has continued to invest in making it easier for Queenslanders to access mapping-related information available through world-class spatial systems.

In January 2017, QImagery was launched, with approximately 800,000 aerial photographs. QImagery provides access to the historical aerial photography captured on film and held by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines. The aerial photography was captured between 1930 and 2009, and is available for all to view and download for free.

In May 2017, the second version of the Queensland Globe was launched. This provides access to approximately 600 layers of data provided by multiple Queensland Government departments. This version now operates from the web browser on smartphones, tablets and PCs. A new feature is the easy ability to save and share maps, enhancing the ability to engage with others through viewing the same information while in different locations.

The department has also entered into agreements to access improved satellite imagery over Queensland. The first imagery source is Earth-1—80 centimetre resolution available on an annual basis. The second imagery source is Planet Labs—3 metre resolution captured daily (subject to cloud cover). These sources increase the currency of imagery available to the Queensland Government assisting in delivery of government priorities.

During 2017–18, the department will be continuing to evolve the information and systems available to Queenslanders. Enhancements will be made to QImagery to provide access to imagery captured since 2009. The Queensland Globe will be enhanced to provide some additional customer-requested features and to incorporate a wider range of data held by the Queensland Government.

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 8

asked on 30 June 2017

QUESTION:

With reference to page 6 of the SDS, can the Minister outline the progress of the Queen's Wharf project, and the work being performed to maximise the resulting benefits and opportunities, particularly for regional Queensland?

ANSWER:

It is now obvious that work is progressing on the Queen's Wharf Brisbane \$3 billion development. Truck movements are increasing, scaffolds are fully erected and pedestrian access changes are being made as the demolition activities progress from the top towards ground level. Significant progress is now visible on the demolition of the Neville Bonner Building, the Executive Building and 80 George Street.

Most pleasingly, a recycling target of 90 per cent is being applied to demolition material recovered from the Queen's Wharf precinct. The materials removed from the three demolished non-heritage buildings will be recycled into construction materials for other projects around South East Queensland.

The Plan of Development from Destination Brisbane Consortium – which consists of almost 40 reports and thousands of pages of design, planning and controls for the precinct – has been lodged with Economic Development Queensland (EDQ) for assessment and can be found on their website at <http://www.dilgp.qld.gov.au/planning/development-assessment/priority-development-area-development-applications.html>

EDQ will conduct a thorough initial review of the application and when satisfied it meets requirements, a 30-business day public notification period will be announced to consider community feedback on the Plan of Development.

The complex delivery of the Queen's Wharf project will necessitate the need for a supply chain of resources, talent and know-how the likes of which this state has not seen for a generation.

It means thousands of jobs – 2,000 to build it and 8,000 to operate it. It also means direct and indirect opportunities for regional businesses and suppliers to partner with the Queen's Wharf project over the course of its future operations where over 1,000 hotel rooms and 50 bars and restaurants will need access to the freshest produce and other goods and services.

To assist the state prepare for this city-building project, my department has also undertaken a Major Projects series, centred on Queen's Wharf, to highlight to Queenslanders the opportunities it can deliver for businesses across regional Queensland.

The series included guest speakers from one of the Queen's Wharf Brisbane consortium partners, Star Entertainment Group, as well as supply chain and economic experts.

The series was attended by over 1,400 people in Brisbane, Toowoomba, Sunshine Coast, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville, Maryborough, Ipswich, Gold Coast, Cairns and Bundaberg.

My department continues to work with DBC and Star Entertainment, as well as local businesses to ensure suppliers have the maximum opportunity to supply goods and services to this transformational project.

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 9
asked on 30 June 2017

QUESTION:

With reference to page 3 of the SDS, can the Minister detail what is being done to ensure Queensland builds upon its strong reputation as a biomedical hub?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government's \$420 million Advance Queensland initiative forms a fundamental component to the Queensland Government's plan to diversify the economy, and create knowledge based jobs.

As part of the Queensland Government's Advance Queensland agenda, the Queensland Government has identified priority industries for government support to facilitate the diversification and strengthening of the Queensland economy.

The *Queensland Biomedical 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan*, recently launched by the Premier and Minister for the Arts at the BIO International Convention in San Diego, demonstrates the Government's commitment to making Queensland a globally competitive biomedical hub in the heart of the Asia-Pacific.

The \$4 million Roadmap and Action Plan sets out a program to support and attract biomedical enterprises and supports the industry to access the capital, skills and resources it needs to commercialise new products and compete in global markets.

The Roadmap and Action Plan provides for:

- a \$2 million Biomedical Assistance Fund to give Queensland biomedical enterprises the opportunity to access the capital they need to bring new products to market; and
- a voucher scheme for interstate or international biomedical companies to utilise Queensland's existing biomedical infrastructure and capabilities.

The Roadmap and Action Plan will also deliver the 'Lean Launchpad' incubator for biomedical enterprises to get their product or services market-ready.

Biomedical enterprises will be given the skills and knowledge they need to connect and grow through a range of business-to-business collaboration and information sharing initiatives under the Roadmap and Action Plan.

The Government is working with and supporting industry to diversify and strengthen the state's economy and create high-value, knowledge-based jobs by:

- creating a healthier biomedical start-up community;
- growing existing businesses and attracting new businesses to Queensland; and
- promoting Queensland capabilities to attract additional investment.

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 10
asked on 30 June 2017

QUESTION:

With reference to page 6 of the SDS, can the Minister detail how State Development Areas are being used to deliver significant regional development and any efforts to maximise their effectiveness?

ANSWER:

State Development Areas (SDAs) are clearly defined areas of land established to strengthen regional economies and create jobs, and are used by the Palaszczuk Government to maximise the potential for co-located industries, support infrastructure projects, advance regional economies, and create jobs.

SDAs ensure the land and infrastructure assets remain attractive to both existing occupants and potential investors. Importantly, SDAs provide access to land when needed for development, ensure incompatible land uses are managed and existing environmental values are protected.

The Coordinator-General is responsible for the planning, establishment, and ongoing management of 10 SDAs throughout Queensland to deliver on the Queensland Government's focus on jobs and economic growth. The SDAs cover approximately 186,000 hectares and fall into three broad types; industrial hubs, multi-user infrastructure corridors, and major infrastructure sites.

During 2016–17, the Coordinator-General approved 17 SDA applications across all SDAs. Development applications in SDAs are currently being assessed in 35.5 per cent of the statutory timeframe of 106 days for making a decision on development applications.

New projects assessed and approved within SDAs in 2016–17 are estimated to have a combined capital expenditure of \$168 million and have the potential to create approximately 249 construction and operational jobs, should they all proceed.

Five SDAs have been established as industrial hubs to provide land for heavy industry and other industrial development requiring a large footprint, four of these are located in regional Queensland at Abbot Point, Bundaberg, Gladstone and Townsville, with the fifth located in Bromelton, near Beaudesert in South East Queensland.

Four SDAs have been established as multi-user infrastructure corridors for the co-location of linear infrastructure such as rail and underground pipelines. These four corridors in regional Queensland – the Callide Infrastructure Corridor; the Galilee Basin; the Stanwell to Gladstone Infrastructure Corridor and the Surat Basin Infrastructure Corridor – assist the Palaszczuk Government in providing an efficient use of land which aims to minimise or avoid infrastructure duplication and transport conflicts.

Lastly, there is the Queensland Children's Hospital SDA on Brisbane's south-side; a major public works development which is now known as the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital.

The proposed Bundaberg SDA was announced on 19 October 2015 and declared on 10 February 2017 as the Palaszczuk Government and the Coordinator-General identified opportunities for significant investment and job opportunities to support the growth of the Bundaberg Port and provide opportunities for major new industries to locate in the area. The Coordinator-General is currently preparing a development scheme for the Bundaberg SDA to support the implementation of these goals.

In addition, the identification of a shortfall in suitable existing industrial land for regionally significant industrial development led to investigations and the commencement of consultation on 11 July 2017 on a proposed Cairns South SDA.

Both of these examples demonstrate the Queensland Government's focus on providing regional economic development, growth and jobs, and diversifying regional economies.

The Coordinator-General works with a range of proponents across all SDAs to facilitate economic development and create employment opportunities. Since February 2015, the Coordinator-General has assessed and approved 51 SDA applications in accordance with the relevant development scheme.

Some of the key projects approved in SDAs since 2015 include Adani's 390km rail line in the Galilee Basin and Abbot Point SDAs; Terminal 0 at the Abbot Point SDA; a power station and airport in the Galilee Basin SDA, a freight logistics facility in the Bromelton SDA; a freight terminal and solar farm in the Townsville SDA; and the Northern Oil Advanced Biofuels Pilot Plant in the Gladstone SDA.

The effectiveness of each SDA is supported by a development scheme that provides guidance to stakeholders about the type of development which can occur in an SDA and contains the process for making and deciding development applications. The process ensures development minimises impacts on the environment, cultural heritage, and the broader community. A development scheme delivers guidance and greater certainty for industry by providing a 'one-stop-shop' for development approvals.

The Coordinator-General is currently reviewing a number of development schemes to ensure they continue to support planning outcomes and streamlined development assessment processes.

Bromelton SDA's development scheme is the most advanced in its review, with public consultation underway on a revised scheme. The review will ensure the development scheme streamlines assessment processes and increases the provision of land for special industry and rail dependent industry. Industries such as SCT Logistics, AJ Bush and Sons, Gelita Australia Pty Ltd, and two quarries, have already established themselves in the Bromelton SDA.

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 11
asked on 30 June 2017

QUESTION:

I refer to the Service Delivery Statement for the Department of State Development and the service area to 'deliver projects that generate jobs'. How many jobs have been generated between March 2012 and June 2017 for the Royalties for the Regions program compared to the Building our Regions program?

ANSWER:

The Royalties for the Regions (R4R) program ran over four years from 2012–13 to 2015–16. The total funds committed under R4R were \$485 million and of this \$311 million was allocated to the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) to manage road and transport infrastructure projects.

The Building our Regions (BoR) program commenced in 2015 and has a total budget of \$375 million of which \$150 million is allocated to DTMR for the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) program.

The table below shows funding arrangements and jobs created for BoR and R4R.

Program	Program dates	Funding rounds	Funding allocated (Managed by the Department of State Development)	Leveraged funds (Council and other contributions)	Jobs created (No of FTEs)
R4R	2012–2016	All – Rounds 1 to 4	\$174.3 million*	\$171.9 million	1,054
BoR	2015–2017	1, 2 2S** and 3	\$225 million	\$353.5 million	1,762***

*R4R funds allocated do not include road and transport infrastructure.

**Supplementary Round 2 for Remote and Indigenous Communities Fund

***Queensland Treasury's guidelines have been used to estimate full-time-equivalent jobs being delivered from BoR.

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 12
asked on 30 June 2017

QUESTION:

I refer the Service Delivery Statement for the Department of State Development and the service area highlights to progress the Biofutures Acceleration Program. How much funding has been allocated for the Biofutures Acceleration Program since 2015/16 and how much of this funding has been expended or committed reported by financial year?

ANSWER:

Released by the Premier and Minister for the Arts in June 2016, the *Queensland Biofutures 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan* outlines the Government's vision to create a \$1 billion sustainable export-oriented industrial biotechnology and bio-products sector in Queensland by 2026.

The Government has committed almost \$20 million in funding over three years to realise this ambition and support delivery of the Roadmap and Action Plan.

Of this funding, \$4 million will be delivered under the Biofutures Acceleration Program, which aims to attract and support development of new commercial-scale biorefinery projects in Queensland.

An invitation for Expressions of Interest (EOI) was advertised to national and international decision makers in key overseas markets such as the USA, Asia, Brazil and Canada to promote this unique opportunity to develop a biorefinery in Queensland.

The EOI process was designed to bring forward proposals from companies with technology capable of using Queensland's feedstocks to create biofuels and other bioproducts, also supporting high value jobs.

Over 120 companies indicated interest in biorefining in Queensland through the program and 26 submitted detailed EOIs. All 26 EOI proposals have been assessed by a government evaluation panel, and a number of assistance arrangements are currently being negotiated.

In June 2017, the government announced support for US biotechnology company, Amyris, to build a new biorefinery in one of Queensland's sugar-growing areas, and for local producer United Ethanol to progress a major expansion of the existing ethanol refinery at Dalby. In July 2017, the government also announced support for MSF Sugar's proposed biorefinery at the Atherton Tablelands.

Complete expenditure of the \$4 million allocation to the Biofutures Acceleration Program is anticipated to take place over the next two financial years.

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 13
asked on 30 June 2017

QUESTION:

I refer to the Service Delivery Statement for the Department of State Development and the service area objective “to assess, approve, develop and deliver projects that generate jobs and economic growth.” How many decisions has the Coordinator General made since 1 February 2015?

ANSWER:

Since 1 February 2015, the Coordinator-General has made 238 statutory decisions (as at 17 July 2017).

This includes 51 development approvals in State Development Areas.

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 14

asked on 30 June 2017

QUESTION:

With respect to page 3 of the SDS, in relation to the implementation of the Murray Darling Basin (MDB) Plan and the revised Sustainable Diversion Limits (SDLs) following the Northern Basin Review:

- a) What will be the total value of the economic impact on communities in the Queensland section of the MDB, if the revised SDLs are fully achieved?
- b) What baseline indicators have been established to measure any environmental benefits attributable to water allocations being recovered in the Queensland section of the MDB and where are they being publicly reported annually?
- c) What baseline indicators have been established to measure socio-economic impacts attributable to water allocations being recovered in the Queensland section of the MDB and where are they being publicly reported annually?

ANSWER:

Water recovery programs to achieve sustainable diversion limits (SDLs) under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan are a Commonwealth responsibility, held by the Deputy Prime Minister and Commonwealth Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, the Honourable Barnaby Joyce MP. A copy of this pre-hearing Question on Notice and response will be provided to the Deputy Prime Minister for his information.

The Northern Basin Review undertaken by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) included social and economic assessments across Basin communities to provide employment consequences associated with the revised water recovery targets. These assessments were conducted at a community level and included specific assessments for Dirranbandi, St George, Mungindi and Goondiwindi. The socio-economic assessments conducted by the MDBA indicate that the proposed water recovery target of 320 gigalitres will reduce the economic impacts associated with water recovery and, in Queensland, this means:

- St George—maximum job reduction down to 2.2 per cent from 6.3 per cent currently;
- Dirranbandi—maximum job reduction down to 14.9 per cent from 18 per cent currently;
- Mungindi—maximum job reduction down to 1.6 per cent from 5.4 per cent currently; and
- Goondiwindi—no change to employment.

A full report is available on the MDBA website at www.mdba.gov.au.

The MDBA also undertook a program of environmental projects to supplement the information used as a basis for SDLs in the Basin Plan. The ecological assessments conducted by the MDBA indicate that the proposed 320 gigalitres recovery target will result in 22 of the 43 environmental indicators being met. By contrast, if recovery stopped immediately at current levels, 15 of the 43 indicators would be met, comparatively a significantly deleterious outcome for environmental performance.

Under the current Basin Plan (390 gigalitres) scenario, only 21 of the 43 indicators were met. The findings of all Northern Basin Review assessments and projects are available on the MDBA website.

The MDBA conducts regular evaluations of Basin Plan implementation, including an assessment of the environmental, social and economic impacts of implementing the plan. The statutory requirement is for the MDBA to conduct an evaluation every five years with the next scheduled for 2020. The MDBA has advised that it is also conducting an evaluation in 2017 which will include an assessment of social and economic impacts.

The Northern Basin Review is currently being finalised by the MDBA. A recommendation with the relevant amendments to the Basin Plan will be made shortly to the Deputy Prime Minister and Commonwealth Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, who will consider and, if accepted, formally adopt the amendments.

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 15
asked on 30 June 2017

QUESTION:

With respect to page 3 of the SDS, what departmental programs, services, or grants, other than allocations made to Queensland's 14 Regional Natural Resource Management Groups, have been or will be funded out of the Natural Resources Investment Program in 2015–16, 2016–17 and 2017–18?

ANSWER:

In 2015–16, a total of \$18.1 million was allocated to natural resource management activities in Queensland. Of this amount, \$10.4 million was allocated to regional natural resource management groups. The remaining \$7.7 million was comprised of:

- \$1.86 million to support the government's investment in reef water quality;
- \$2.1 million for projects delivered through industry groups;
- \$437,000 to support Landcare;
- \$1.6 million to local governments and river improvement trusts to support disaster recovery and mitigation works; and
- \$1.7 million for program administration.

In 2016–17, a total of \$14.4 million was allocated to natural resource management activities in Queensland. Of this amount, \$7.9 million was allocated to natural resource management (NRM) groups. The remaining \$6.5 million was comprised of:

- \$1.865 million to support the government's investment in reef water quality;
- \$2.0 million for projects delivered through industry groups;
- \$350,000 to support Landcare;
- \$600,000 to river improvement trusts to support disaster recovery and mitigation works; and
- \$1.75 million for program administration.

In 2017–18, a total of \$14 million has been allocated to natural resource management activities in Queensland. Of this amount, \$7.52 million is to be allocated to natural resource management groups. The remaining \$6.48 million is comprised of:

- \$1.78 million to support the government's investment in reef water quality;
- \$2.0 million for projects delivered through industry groups;
- \$350,000 to support Landcare.
- \$600,000 to river improvement trusts to support disaster recovery and mitigation works; and
- \$1.75 million for program administration.

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 16

asked on 30 June 2017

QUESTION:

With respect to page 4 of the SDS and the review of self-assessable codes (SACs) for a range of vegetation management activities in Queensland:

- a) What are the details of the consultation process that has occurred with SAC users has occurred during the course of this review?
- b) Which specific industry or other groups or organisations have been involved in the SAC review process (listed by representative sector)?
- c) Has a report been produced as a result of the SAC review process, who produced the report, what recommendations if any does it contain?
- d) If a report has, or recommendations have, been presented, will it or they be tabled in the Queensland Parliament and if so when?

ANSWER:

- a) As part of the review of self-assessable codes (SACs), the Department of Natural Resources and Mines has undertaken a substantial consultation process. This occurred through a staged process due to the scale of the project. Initially, after the independent review of the SACs by Cardno Chenoweth, peak stakeholders were briefed on the outcomes of the review and were given the opportunity to provide submissions to the department on the review. A number of peak stakeholder groups were consulted and provided written submissions on the code review.

The department also sourced feedback internally from regional staff who work directly with SAC users in implementing the SACs on the ground. Further to this, the department sought advice from the Queensland Herbarium on specific technical issues to ensure scientific validity and rigour with any changes proposed to the SACs. At this stage, the department also consulted with peak stakeholders and other government departments which provided feedback to the Cardno Chenoweth review, where specific issues required the sourcing of further information.

The next stage was external consultation and review which involved briefing peak stakeholders on the revised code. Once peak stakeholders were briefed on the revised code, the department released the revised code to the public for external consultation. The Queensland Government's 'Get Involved' website provides a list of all government consultations and provides an opportunity for the public to have a say via an online survey. Consultation was open for a minimum of 28 days providing landholders and key stakeholders with the opportunity to review the draft revised code and provide feedback direct to the department.

At the same time as the public release, the department wrote to all landholders who had notified to clear for the particular SAC and advised them of the opportunity to provide feedback on the Get Involved website. A number of advertisements were also placed in regional newspapers including the

Queensland Country Life and the Courier Mail to ensure the public was aware of the consultation process. A range of supporting information products were also provided on the Get Involved website to assist the public in understanding the SACs review process.

To date, two codes have been released for public consultation—managing thickened vegetation (which received 28 public submissions) and managing fodder harvesting (which received seven submissions). Stakeholder groups will be briefed prior to final codes being released.

- b) Agricultural sector
 - Queensland Farmers' Federation
 - AgForce
 - Queensland Beekeepers Association Inc
- Timber sector
 - Timber Queensland
 - Private Forestry Services Queensland
- Construction sector
 - Cement Concrete and Aggregates Australia
 - Groundwork Plus
 - Summit Construction Materials Pty Ltd
 - Extractive industry consultants
- Local government sector
 - Local Government Association of Queensland
 - Western Downs Regional Council
 - Gympie Regional Council
 - Mackay Regional Council
- Environment sector
 - World Wide Fund for Nature
 - Wilderness Society
 - Environmental Defenders Office
 - Queensland Conservation Council
- Natural resource management sector
 - Queensland Regional Groups Collective.
- State government sector
 - Department of Agriculture and Forestry
 - Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
 - Queensland Herbarium
- c) The report produced as a result of the SAC review process was delivered by Cardno Chenoweth. This company was commissioned by the department in mid-2015 to conduct an independent evaluation of the SACs. Through the report, Cardno Chenoweth suggested some amendments to practices in the SACs to ensure they are consistent with the objectives of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.
- d) The report is publicly available on the department's website and is not required to be tabled in Parliament.

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 17

asked on 30 June 2017

QUESTION:

With respect to page 6 of the SDS and in relation to the Minister's Resources Roundtable and the Resources Community Roundtable:

- a) How many times and when has each Roundtable met in 2015-16 and 2016-17?
- b) Who has comprised the membership of each Roundtable in 2015-16 and 2016-17 and what was their record of attendance in relation to (a)?
- c) What priorities have these industry and community stakeholders agreed to and/or recommended as a result of the meetings in (a) and have they been communicated in writing?
- d) If any priorities have been agreed to and/or recommended as a result of the meetings in (a) and have been communicated in writing, will they be tabled in the Queensland Parliament and if so when?

ANSWER:

The resources roundtables provide valuable insight into what really matters—informing the policy agenda for government so that government resources can be focused to work on the issues that matter most.

- a) Four Resources Community Roundtables and four Resources Ministerial Roundtables were held in 2015-16.

Three Resources Community Roundtables and three Resources Ministerial Roundtables were held in 2016-17.

Attachments 1 and 2 provide details of meeting dates.

- b) The Resources Community Roundtable membership includes:
 - peak representative bodies from the agricultural sector (AgForce and the Queensland Farmers' Federation);
 - the Local Government Association of Queensland;
 - traditional owners (Queensland Native Title South and the North Queensland Land Council);
 - environmental groups (Queensland Conservation Council and World Wildlife Fund for Nature);
 - employee representative groups (Australian Workers' Union and CFMEU);
 - resource sector supply chain representatives (Australian Industry Group); and
 - the Queensland Resources Council, the Australian Petroleum and Production Exploration Association and the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies.

The Resources Ministerial Roundtable membership includes representatives of a range of minerals, coal, petroleum and gas, and exploration companies operating throughout Queensland.

The peak stakeholder organisations are the Queensland Resources Council, the Australian Petroleum and Production Exploration Association, and the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies.

Both these roundtables establish an ongoing dialogue between government, industry and community around key issues and opportunities for the sector. The roundtables focus on strategic issues directly related to realising a competitive and socially responsible resources sector in Queensland. The roundtables also provide a mechanism for government to engage with and disseminate information about key resources policy initiatives—for example, legislative reform, ongoing exploration and land releases—to key non-resources sector stakeholders.

Attachments 1 and 2 provide details of membership and meeting attendance.

- c) While minutes detailing the broad nature of the discussion are kept, both roundtables are advisory not decision-making bodies.

Some of the successful initiatives which have been driven by the advice of the roundtables are:

- **Land Court.** The review of the Land Court's processes and practices, which were initiated by the Land Court's new President, Fleur Kingham.

The Resources Community Roundtable and the Resources Ministerial Roundtable were briefed by President Kingham and provided input to her independent reviewer, Mr Barry Walsh.

- **Financial assurance.** Resources Community Roundtable and Resources Ministerial Roundtable discussion led to the development and review of the financial assurance framework for resources.

The discussion paper—which I released with the Treasurer and the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection in May 2017—recognises that not all operators are the same in terms of size and risk.

- **Supporting Exploration.** Now in its second year, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines Annual Exploration Program provides industry and community with a 12-month release schedule of areas planned for resources exploration. To uphold its commitment to ensure communities are consulted, all directly affected stakeholders including landholders and traditional owners have been notified.

- **Land access.** The development of a standardised conduct and compensation agreement for the gas industry is another initiative that is being driven by the collaboration of Resources Community Roundtable members, notably AgForce and the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association.

A standardised conduct and compensation agreement will make it easier for both parties to understand their rights and obligations and to negotiate appropriately and respectfully when it comes to allowing petroleum and gas exploration companies onto properties to undertake exploration and production activities.

Both roundtables have also provided input into the Coordinator-General's review of the Economic Assessment Guidelines for Coordinated Projects.

In accordance with the terms of reference for each roundtable, an annual report is provided to roundtable members. This year's annual report is due to be finalised by 30 September 2017.

Resources Community Roundtable

Organisation	Meeting 1	Meeting 2	Meeting 3	Meeting 4	Meeting 5	Meeting 6	Meeting 7
	2/09/2015	19/11/2015	11/02/2016	31/05/2016	2/08/2016	15/11/2016	23/02/2017
APPEA							
LGAQ							
Queensland Conservation Council							
Queensland Resources Council							
Agforce							
AMEC							
Australian Workers Union							
Queensland South Native Title Service							
World Wildlife Fund							
North Queensland Land Council							
Queensland Farmers Federation (QFF)							
Ai group							
CFMEU							
Purposeful Capital							
Queensland Law Society							
ATTENDED							
NON ATTENDANCE							

Resources Ministerial Roundtable
ATTACHMENT 2

Organisation	Meeting 1	Meeting 2	Meeting 3	Meeting 4	Meeting 5	Meeting 6	Meeting 7
	21/07/2015	3/11/2015	5/05/2016	23/06/2016	8/09/2016	24/11/2016	31/05/2017
Aeon Metals							
AMEC							
Blue Energy							
Rio Tinto Alcan							
Arrow Energy							
Australian Pacific LNG Pty Ltd							
APPEA							
BHP Billiton							
Jellinbah Group							
Metallica Minerals							
Origin Energy (member from 29/09/16)	not member	not member	not member	not member	not member		
Queensland Resources Council							
Senex Energy Limited							
Adani Mining							
Glencore Xtrata							
Metro Mining Limited							
Minotaur Exploration							
QGC - BG Group							
Santos							
Anglo American Coal							
RJH Consulting							not a member
Wesfarmers Resources Limited							
Cockatoo Coal Ltd							
METS Ignited (member from meeting 3)	not member	not member					
Capricorn Copper (member from 06/06/16)	not member	not member	not member				
ConocoPhillips	not member	not member	not member	not member	not member	not member	

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 18
asked on 30 June 2017

QUESTION:

With respect to page 2 of the SDS and pages 65 and 109 of Budget Paper No.4, in relation to the reported \$39 million, four-year allocation to support the Strategic Blueprint for the North West Minerals Province:

- a) What are specific initiatives that make up this Strategic Blueprint (reported separately by department, agency or office)?
- b) What specific budget allocations are associated with each of these specific initiatives (reported separately by department, agency or office)?
- c) What proportion of the \$39 million will be spent in each of the four years, on each initiative (reported separately by department, agency or office)?

ANSWER:

As part of the 2017–18 budget, the Queensland Government announced the \$39 million package over four years across several departments to deliver initiatives which will support a strong and prosperous future for the North West Minerals Province. The package will:

- facilitate continued resources sector development;
- work towards diversifying the regional economy;
- create employment opportunities; and
- work through partnerships to deliver integrated and appropriate services.

Budget Paper No. 4 outlines the allocation of the \$39 million package across the supporting departments:

- \$27.1 million for the Department of Natural Resources and Mines to expand resource exploration and development for gas in new basins and for minerals in the North West Minerals Province
- \$600,000 for the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (\$150,000 each year over the four-year period) to support implementation of the blueprint
- \$1.3 million for the Department of State Development (\$320,000 each year over the four-year period) to establish a dedicated government team in the North West Minerals Province
- \$10 million over two years (2017–18 and 2018–19) with funding held centrally, subject to finalisation of the strategic blueprint.

As announced in a media statement on 14 June 2017 by the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, the \$27.1 million allocated to the Department of Natural Resources and Mines includes:

- \$7.125 million to provide vital geological data to encourage new discoveries of gas and minerals in the North West
- \$3.6 million for gas exploration in the new frontier Georgina, South Nicholson and Isa Super basins
- \$4.275 million for mineral geophysics to pinpoint the locations of potential new mineral prospects over wide areas.
- \$1.45 million for mineral geochemistry programs to identify the type of potential mineral deposits (e.g copper, or lead, or zinc etc)
- \$4.95 million for mineral synthesis to develop a comprehensive and integrated understanding of the geology of the North West Minerals Province.
- \$925,000 to support national research into advanced techniques used in the discovery of mineral deposits in frontier regions
- \$3.6 million for the Collaborative Exploration Initiative which helps explorers target and test identified mineral prospects in frontier.

Further details of specific initiatives will be available once the strategic blueprint for the North West Minerals Province is publicly released.

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 19

asked on 30 June 2017

QUESTION:

With reference to page 2 dot point # 1 Can the Minister outline what are the objectives for underground water management are and how the needs of farmers who have a 100% reliance on underground water have been considered?

ANSWER:

Underground water is of fundamental importance to the development and growth of Queensland. It is extensively used for urban water supplies, agriculture, irrigation, industry and mining. It is also important in sustaining key ecological assets.

The core principles that apply to underground water management in Queensland are based on long-term sustainable management of the resource. Water planning has been the cornerstone of Queensland's water management framework since the commencement of the *Water Act 2000*, which provides a secure and sustainable basis for the allocation of water for consumptive use and for the environment.

Plans and policies related to underground water management are consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development. They seek to allocate and manage underground water in a way that ensures social, cultural and economic values are supported, while also protecting water-related ecological assets, such as springs which rely on access to underground water.

Requirements and regulations for taking underground water vary throughout the state, and reflect local availability from aquifers, existing levels of use, potential demands, and any associated risks to the resource or the associated environmental assets.

Water plans, including those which apply to underground water, have been developed and implemented across Queensland to ensure the sustainable management of Queensland's water resources. Queensland's robust water planning framework—with legislated consultation requirements—has mechanisms in place to manage uncertainty and to adapt water management in response to improved information and knowledge, including monitoring and reporting.

Queensland's water planning process also recognises the rights of existing authorised water users, and each water plan defines the nature, extent and duration of these rights and any limitation, such as on use or on trade. In addition, each plan provides for protection of existing water entitlements and the environment in determining whether additional water can be made available for consumptive purposes. Ensuring the protection of the security and volume of existing entitlements ensures that, when releases of unallocated water are made, communities can be entirely confident that positive economic benefits will result.

In regards to managing impacts on groundwater from resource development activities, Queensland has in place a robust framework which provides for predicting, monitoring and managing impacts of such activities.

Under the framework, resource tenure holders have a statutory obligation to 'make good' any impacts on surrounding landholders' water bores, and develop underground water impact reports and baseline assessments of water supply bores. Landholders have the statutory certainty from the day the tenure is granted, and they will be entitled to make good agreements if their water supply bores are expected to be impaired. The framework also provides further protection for landholders through a dispute resolution support for negotiation of make good agreements.

The Queensland Government further strengthened this framework late last year to ensure upfront assessment of any predicted underground water impacts, and appropriate management of these impacts through the environmental authority processes. The regulatory framework also ensures that resource companies have essentially the same processes, rights and obligations as other users when taking underground water to use in their operations, such as taking water to use for dust suppression or in hydraulic fracturing.

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 20
asked on 30 June 2017

QUESTION:

Page 6 of the SDS for the Department of Natural Resources and Mines states that supporting the mineral and energy resource industry is one of the key priorities. What has the government done or is it currently doing to assist small mining companies that are wanting increase safety measures?

ANSWER:

Since 2008, the Mines Inspectorate in the Department of Natural Resources and Mines has designed a Small Mines Program targeted at small mines to assist in improving safety and health performance. Included in the program has been the development and delivery of the Small Mines Safety Management Kit which assists small mines, including quarries, to develop and implement an appropriate and effective safety and health management system for their operations. The kit has been provided to small mines through industry training workshops and one-on-one contact with inspectors during site inspections.

Integral to the Small Mines Program is the development and delivery of tailored training workshops to the site senior executives and supervisors of small mines. During 2016–17, the Mines Inspectorate held the following small mines workshops:

- Effective risk management and incident investigation
 - Brisbane – 13 August 2016
 - Chinchilla – 28 August 2016
 - Brisbane – 30 March 2017
 - Cairns – 7 March 2017
 - Townsville – 8 March 2017
 - Rockhampton – 15 March 2017
 - Mackay – 17 March 2017
- Electrical awareness
 - Brisbane – 29 March 2017
 - Brisbane – 5 April 2017
- Safe drilling and blasting (if blasting is intended at the site)
 - Mount Isa – 5 July 2016
 - Mackay – 25 July 2016
 - Mareeba – 8 February 2017
 - Brisbane – 22 March 2017

In partnership with the Institute of Quarrying Australia, during 2016–17, the Mines Inspectorate held five small mines and quarry seminars across the state in the following locations:

- Townsville – 4 April 2017
- Cairns – 5 April 2017
- Mackay – 9 May 2017

- Rockhampton – 10 May 2017
- Brisbane – 15 June 2017

During 2016–17, the Mines Inspectorate attended and gave advice at three meetings of the North Queensland Small Miners Association held in Mareeba, and also at a meeting of the Queensland Boulder Opal Association in Winton.

The site senior executives of small mines receive the Mines Inspectorate safety publications—including the monthly report on high-potential incidents and serious accidents—safety alerts and safety bulletins.

The Mines Inspectorate proactively inspects small mines as part of a risk-based structured inspection program.