INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 1

Asked on Friday, 28 June 2019

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the Queensland Government is growing the protected area estate in Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

Since 2015, the Queensland Government has increased the size of the protected area estate by over one million hectares — up from 7.5% to 8.2% of the State.

The Department of Environment and Science (DES) has scheduled the dedication of four acquired properties totalling 4,118 hectares as public protected area tenure in the first quarter of 2019-20. A number of additional properties totalling approximately 73,000 hectares are anticipated for dedication as public protected areas during the balance of 2019-20.

In terms of private protected area expansion, 43 nature refuges have been declared since February 2015. In March 2019, the Queensland Government passed legislation to introduce a new class of private protected area; special wildlife reserves. Special wildlife reserves will give national park level protection to privately-owned areas of outstanding conservation value.

The 2019-20 Budget includes $15.1 million operating funds over four years (from 2019-20) and $975,000 per annum (ongoing from 2023-24) for the continuation of the Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Program and Joint Management with Traditional Owners programs which contribute to the expansion of the protected area estate.

In addition, the 2019-20 Budget includes $11.3 million to enable DES to progress priority acquisitions for protected areas in southern Queensland and $6 million in the Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Program for land acquisitions.

A further $12.5 million will be invested in 2019-20 for the Revitalisation of National Parks including $10 million towards the capital works program to upgrade infrastructure.

INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 2

Asked on Friday, 28 June 2019

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline the average time taken to resolve problem crocodile declarations in 2018-2019?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

In 2018-19, 61 per cent of problem estuarine crocodile declarations were resolved within 24 hours, however, the average time taken to resolve those declarations was 13 days.

The SDS performance measure for 2019-20 is that the median time taken to resolve declared problem crocodiles will not exceed seven business days. This performance measure was amended to better reflect the effectiveness of the Department of Environment and Science's crocodile management program, is consistent with Queensland Audit Office guidance on service level output objectives, and is recognised as being a more statistically robust measure.

INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 3

Asked on Friday, 28 June 2019

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the powers, rights and responsibilities local governments have to manage flying fox roosts in Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

In 2014, the former LNP Government amended the Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006 (the Regulation) to give local governments as-of-right authority to use non-lethal measures in managing flying-fox roosts in urban flying-fox management areas, provided they comply with the 'Code of Practice – Ecologically sustainable management of flying-fox roosts' (the Code) for that activity.

This means councils are empowered under the legislation to conduct roost management activities without needing a permit from the Department of Environment and Science (the department), if they choose to do so.

It should be noted that under the Regulation, the department cannot oblige a council to act under its as-of-right authority. If a council does commit to roost management activities under the Code, it has a number of actions at its disposal including destroying a roost, dispersing the roost, or modifying a part of a roost through tree trimming and/or removal of roost trees.

In addition to the local government as-of-right authority to manage flying-fox roosts, councils also have the option to apply for a flying-fox roost management permit, should they wish to conduct flying-fox roost management activities outside of an urban flying-fox management area, or use roost management techniques that are different to those outlined in the Code.

INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 4

Asked on Friday, 28 June 2019

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister advise how access to the Container Refund Scheme is being improved for regional Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

Since the Container Refund Scheme commenced on 1 November 2018, over 300 container refund points have now been established and are operational across the State, with more than 80 per cent located outside the Brisbane City Council local government area.

Container Exchange, the not-for-profit company appointed to run the scheme, is required to establish at least 307 container refund points by 1 November 2019. These sites allow people to return containers and access the refund, or donate the refund to their chosen charity, school or community group, in regional and remote areas.

Queensland’s container refund point (CRP) network is made up of a range of service delivery options including permanently staffed depots, bag drops, reverse vending machine depots and mobile refund points, which provides the needed flexibility to deliver appropriate services to communities in metropolitan and regional areas.

Mobile and permanent refund points now operate in regional towns including Hughenden, Richmond, Julia Creek, Charleville, Wandoan, Tara and Kogan.

On Cape York, for example, there are now 22 operational CRP sites, and a new container processing facility that has also been established in Weipa.

The approach taken in providing a range of different refund point operations has provided a best fit that allows large and small communities to access the refund, with mobile and pop-up refund points playing a significant part in scheme delivery in remote areas.

Areas of the State without access to a CRP are being prioritised for assessment and identification of people or businesses interested in operating a site. This work will continue beyond 1 November 2019 to ensure that communities have convenient and reasonable access to refund points.

INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 5

Asked on Friday, 28 June 2019

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister explain how the Queensland Government is supporting businesses and the construction industry with the introduction of the waste levy?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Queensland Government is supporting businesses through its established ecoBiz program, funded by the Queensland Government and coordinated by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland. EcoBiz provides free tailored advice to businesses on reducing their waste, energy and water costs. An additional $1.8 million on top of the existing $3.9 million has been allocated to expand ecoBiz to provide this extra support.

The Queensland Government is also supporting businesses and councils through funding programs designed to assist with the introduction of the waste levy and encourage better waste management. These include:

- $2 million over two financial years commencing in 2019-20 to support the construction and demolition industry to identify and implement efficiencies in business practices that reduce waste.
- $100 million over three years commencing in 2018-19 for the Resource Recovery Industry Development Program, administered through the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Facilities that collect, sort and process construction and demolition can apply for this funding.
- $6 million over two years commencing in 2019-20 to help offset the higher costs of transporting recyclable materials from regional areas.

In June and July 2019, the Department of Environment and Science has been delivering information sessions to businesses and community organisations across the State. Sessions have been delivered up and down the coast and inland to Roma and Mount Isa. Businesses have been encouraged to look at how they can reduce waste, separate waste streams and recycle more, to help reduce costs of sending waste to landfill.

The department continues to provide information for businesses through its website, social media campaigns and in its regular e-newsletters.

Information packs for local councils have also been distributed with shareable content for businesses and the broader community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the mayors, councillors and council officers who have greatly assisted in discussing the levy in their communities.

INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 6

Asked on Friday, 28 June 2019

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister outline the important work Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service undertakes to protect the estate it manages, and the community, from bushfires?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Department of Environment and Science (DES) takes its obligations to manage parks and forests very seriously, with priority given to protecting life and property, particularly where urban and rural communities adjoin our parks and forests. DES, through the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, monitors bushfire risk and fire danger conditions across the land it manages to ensure rapid response to any bushfire event. DES employs a number of techniques to manage bushfire risk including carrying out regular planned burns to reduce fuel loads and lessen the impact of bushfires in preparation for the annual bushfire season.

The devastating bushfires experienced by Queenslanders at the end of last year were unprecedented. In late November 2018, several areas in Queensland experienced catastrophic fire weather conditions for the first time on record. The Bureau of Meteorology issued the catastrophic fire warnings, taking into account factors such as humidity levels, wind speed, previous rainfall, and temperature.

The 2018 Queensland bushfire conditions were anticipated by climate change models for Queensland and the science indicates these conditions will be experienced regularly in years to come.

DES works with emergency services, neighbours, lessees and Traditional Owners to encourage a landscape wide approach to fire management.

In 2018/19 QPWS conducted planned burns over more than 1 million hectares which is the largest area covered for the last five years.

Due to the likelihood of more severe future climatic conditions, the Queensland Government has allocated an additional $16 million over four years commencing in 2019-20, and $2.6 million per year ongoing, to provide improved capability for bushfire management in Queensland’s parks and forests.

This initiative is primarily focused on taking practical steps to improve the containment of wildfires on Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service managed land in strategic locations across Queensland.

INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 7

Asked on Friday, 28 June 2019

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

How is the Queensland Government supporting local councils to ensure there is no direct impact on households from the waste levy?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

Queensland's waste levy will support the growth of the waste and resource recovery industry, as well as promote more jobs in recycling.

The levy zone includes 39 out of 77 local government areas. This covers around 90 per cent of Queensland's population and is where the majority of waste is generated and disposed.

To ensure the waste levy has no direct impact on households, the Queensland Government is providing annual payments to those councils that dispose of municipal solid waste to landfills in the levy zone. A total of 43 councils are eligible for the annual payments—39 located inside the levy zone and four (Cook, Wujal Wujal, Yarrabah and Palm Island councils) located outside the levy zone, but that dispose of waste in the levy zone.

The total amount paid to councils for 2019-20 is $143.5 million. Each council's annual payment is 105% of the calculated levy liability for municipal solid waste in a given financial year. As the levy applies to waste disposed to landfill, councils and their communities that reduce their waste to landfill may receive a windfall from the payment.

In the lead-up to the levy starting, the Queensland Government supported local councils and businesses through two grant programs — the $5 million Local Government Levy Ready Grants Program (LGLRGP) and the $100 million Resource Recovery Industry Development Program (RRIDP).

Delivered in 2018-19, the LGLRGP provided funding to assist local councils with necessary infrastructure upgrades to their waste disposal facilities prior to the levy starting. The LGLRGP was administered by the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs.

The RRIDP provides funding over three years from 2018-19 with the intent to develop a high-value resource recovery and recycling industry. Under the program, local governments, established businesses and not-for-profit organisations looking to employ proven technologies for resource recovery can apply for funding and other support to improve existing operations or bring significant new facilities to Queensland. The RRIDP is administered by the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning.

Since October 2018, DES has been delivering workshops and information sessions to local councils across the State. Over this time, more than 35 workshops and sessions have been delivered, from Cairns south to the Gold Coast and inland to Roma, Emerald and Mount Isa.

INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 8

Asked on Friday, 28 June 2019

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister advise what the Queensland Government has done to ensure compliance with the Waste Levy?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The introduction of the waste levy is part of the Queensland Government's new waste management and resource recovery strategy designed to increase recycling and recovery rates, and create jobs. In order to avoid increases in illegal dumping, the Queensland Government has provided an additional 16 compliance officers (on top of the 145 existing staff) to undertake specific waste levy compliance.

The Department of Environment and Science (the department) has already commenced inspections of landfills to ensure they meet waste levy requirements. As at 29 July 2019, the department has conducted 90 levy inspections across the State. The department will undertake further activities that involve intercepting waste vehicles and utilising drones to ensure environmental compliance.

The department is taking a whole of government approach to levy compliance. This includes establishing partnerships with other relevant State Government departments to coordinate action in relation to waste levy compliance. The department is also establishing partnerships with local governments by supporting additional compliance staff specifically to address any increase in illegal dumping.

The department has developed a framework to ensure compliance with the waste levy. The compliance framework utilises information from databases, satellite imagery and intelligence sources to prioritise compliance activities, monitor high-risk sites and inform the activities of compliance officers. Implementing the compliance framework will provide community and industry confidence in the waste levy system, and support operators to understand how to comply with waste levy requirements.

INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 9

Asked on Friday, 28 June 2019

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

The Department of Environment and Science as regulator, needs to make timely decisions and provide certainty to proponents. Can the Minister outline how the Department of Environment and Science (DES) fulfils this role, for example in relation to the Environmental Impact Statement processes?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

As Queensland's environmental regulator, the Department of Environment and Science (the department) plays a vital role in ensuring that the State's unique environmental and heritage values are protected now and into the future.

The department works closely with proponents, members of the community and other relevant stakeholders during assessment and decision processes (including for Environmental Impact Statements or EISs) in order to provide clarity around information requirements, timeframes and decision-making criteria.

In relation to an EIS, statutory timeframes, listed in chapter 3 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act), apply at each step of the process to both project proponents and the department. The statutory timeframe for the department to complete all the steps associated with the EIS assessment totals 30 weeks.

For the six EIS assessments completed since January 2015, the average assessment timeframe for the department has been 23 weeks (shorter than the statutory 30 week assessment timeframe provided by the EP Act).

The average timeframe taken by proponents to prepare an EIS for these projects was 103 weeks, which demonstrates the level of technical complexity involved in these documents. The EIS process also includes a statutory minimum of 12 weeks for public notification.

In addition, there are a range of environmental authority (EA) applications that are not processed via the EP Act EIS process. The EP Act sets out the requirements for assessment of these EAs including timeframes for decisions to ensure transparent and timely decision making.

INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 10

Asked on Friday, 28 June 2019

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the DES Service Delivery Statement page 11, would the Minister please advise what measures and funding increases are allocated this budget to better protect, manage and provide services for National Parks such as Noosa and Great Sandy that host large visitor numbers, and when a review will take place to assess funding models?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

Supported by the initial $35 million for the Revitalising National Parks program, $2.49 million of works will have been invested in capital improvements to visitor facilities at Noosa National Park over the last three years from 2017-18.

As part of the additional $10 million allocated in the 2019-20 Budget for the Revitalising National Parks program, the Palaszczuk Government is investing further funds in the following projects in the Sunshine and Fraser Coast regions:

- $1 million to upgrade visitor facilities at Inskip Point; and
- $1 million to Great Sandy National Park for dingo fencing and visitor facility upgrades.

Management planning has commenced in partnership with the Butchulla and the Kabi Kabi First Nations peoples for the Great Sandy and Noosa National Parks. This will provide for a contemporary, values-based approach to managing these iconic areas – with a strong focus on First Nations connection to Country, protecting natural and cultural values and enhancing ecotourism opportunities.

Compliance activities across Noosa National Park include scheduled weekend patrols and incidental call-outs when required. In particular, the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service works cooperatively with the Noosa Shire Council in relation to management and compliance of car parking and illegal camping within Noosa National Park.

The Great Sandy National Park compliance activities comprise of weekend, and public and school holiday targeted compliance patrols, commercial operator checks and additionally, camper dingo briefings. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service works cooperatively with the Queensland Police Service and other agencies in relation to the management of visitors in both the Cooloola and K’gari sections of Great Sandy National Park

INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 11

Asked on Friday, 28 June 2019

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the DES Service Delivery Statement, page 34 major balance sheet variation number 23 relating to IT assets, will the Minister provide a detailed breakdown of budgeted and actual expenditure on IT per financial year for 2016–17, 2017–18, and 2018–19?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Department of Environment and Science was established on 12 December 2017. The following table represents the breakdown of budgeted and actual expenditure on IT capital software for the department for the periods 2017–18 (12 December 2017 – 30 June 2018), and 2018–19 (1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019):

2017-18 Estimated Actuals* Budget	2017-18 Actual*	2018-19 Estimated Actuals Budget	2018-19 Actual**
Million	**Million**	**Million**	**Million**
$4.386	$3.410	$6.416	$5.096

* For the period 12 December 2017 – 30 June 2018.

** Note that the financial ledger for 2018-19 has not yet closed and actuals have not yet been audited by the Queensland Audit Office.

As described in the SDS reference mentioned in the question – the increase is due to planned development of IT system assets.

INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 12

Asked on Friday, 28 June 2019

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the DES departmental budget summary on Service Delivery Statement page 23, will the Minister provide a detailed breakdown of all overseas related travel departmental expenses (in table format, per financial year and per country) for 2015–16, 2016–17, 2017–18, and 2018–19?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

In accordance with the Queensland Government's Air Travel Policy, only overseas travel considered essential to agency and/or government objectives is approved and only then after all other avenues of gaining the relevant knowledge or the experience have been considered.

In accordance with the Annual Report requirements for Queensland Government agencies, information in relation to overseas travel expenditure is reported through the Queensland Government Open Data portal at the same time an agency's annual report is tabled in the Parliament.

Information on prior years' departmental overseas travel, including prior to the department's establishment on 12 December 2017, can be found on the Open Data portal at https://data.qld.gov.au/.

2018-19 overseas travel for the Department of Environment and Science (DES) is reflected in the following table:

Destination	Number of trips	Total Agency cost ($)	Total Contribution from External Sources ($)
Brazil	3	1,732.00	4,903.00
Chile	1	6,848.10	-
China	3	11,916.43	2,500.00
Denmark / Germany	1	8,223.14	-
Geneva	1	4,763.81	-
Greece	1	3,968.26	-
Italy	2	7,496.06	-
New Zealand	3	3,499.60	1,834.00
Singapore*	1	-	-
Thailand	2	7,677.13	-
United States of America	5	43,519.44	-
TOTAL	**23**	**99,643.97**	**9,237.00**

*Officer attended conference at own travel cost.

INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 13

Asked on Friday, 28 June 2019

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the DES Service Delivery Statement, page 11, service standard relating to area of Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services managed estate with fuel loads reduced by planned burning, will the Minister advise what the actual hectares burnt were over 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The actual hectares of Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) estate burnt within planned burn programs over the last three financial years is:

- 2016/17: 694,958 hectares burnt (target was 630,000 hectares);
- 2017/18: 942,680 hectares burnt (target was 632,000 hectares); and
- 2018/19: 1,030,232 hectares burnt (target was 634,800 hectares).

This information can be found in departmental annual reports.

Over the last five years, QPWS has consistently achieved its planned burning target, however with our changing climate; we have recently experienced unprecedented fire conditions in areas of Queensland.

To keep ahead of these environmental changes the Queensland Government has shown strong commitment to support bushfire management in our parks and forests by allocating a further $16 million over four years, and $2.6 million per year ongoing. This funding is primarily focused on taking practical steps to reduce the risk of bushfire to neighbouring communities.

INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 14

Asked on Friday, 28 June 2019

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the DES Service Delivery Statement, page 11, service area highlight to conserve Queensland koalas, will the Minister detail all recorded koalas found and/or treated in Queensland for 2017-18 and 2018-19?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

Data on koalas coming into care throughout Queensland is recorded and managed through the Department of Environment and Science's (DES) database, KoalaBase.

In 2017-18, 1,067 koalas arrived at a wildlife hospital for assessment and care.

In 2018-19, 976 koalas arrived at a wildlife hospital for assessment and care.

In 2018-19, DES provided $1.5 million to the South East Queensland Wildlife Hospital Network to support the treatment and rehabilitation of sick and injured wildlife (including koalas). The network consists of the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital, RSPCA Wildlife Hospital and Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital in addition to the DES operated Moggill Koala Rehabilitation Centre.

This funding is being continued in 2019-20 together with support for the continued operation of the RSPCA 24/7 wildlife hotline 1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625).

The Government has allocated an additional $729,000 in 2019-20 to support the ongoing operations at the Moggill Koala Rehabilitation Centre, the Daisy Hill Koala Centre and to increase the level of support for the RSPCA 1300 wildlife hotline by $200,000.

$816,000 over two years from 2019-20 has been allocated to refurbish the Moggill Koala Rehabilitation Centre to enhance its capacity as a specialist rehabilitation centre supporting the South East Queensland Wildlife Hospital Network.

INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 15

Asked on Friday, 28 June 2019

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the DES Service Delivery Statement, pages 5, 10, 14 and 19 staffing numbers:

Will the Minister detail in table format the number of

a) front line, and
b) non-front line staff by individual Queensland region?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The number of estimated actual front line staff in the Department of Environment and Science (DES) is 89.9% of total staff, excluding Arts Queensland and the Corporate Administration Agency (which were not included in the Committee's question).
Of this, 51.3% of front line staff are located outside of the Brisbane region.

Front line staff are those that deliver services directly to the public and are non-corporate services roles that provide essential support, enabling the effective delivery of front line services.

DES is a predominantly front line service delivery organisation consisting of five service delivery divisions as well as the Wet Tropics Management Authority, the Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist, and a centralised corporate service. Each division employs a variety of front line positions and a small proportion of support staff that provide business services to those front line positions.

Front line occupations include:

- Rangers and wildlife officers across the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service;
- Programme or Project administrators who deliver priorities such as: revitalising national parks, Great Barrier Reef Joint Field Management Program, Accelerating Science Delivery Innovation and environmental waste programs;
- Environmental consultants predominantly located in the Environmental Services and Regulation division conducting environmental impact assessments; and
- Environmental and research scientists in the Science and Technology division.

The table below outlines the composition of DES front line and non-front line staff by individual Queensland region as at 21 June 2019.

Department of Environment and Science staff FTEs estimated actuals [1]

Region [2]	**Frontline staff**	**Non-front line staff** [3]
Brisbane	1,221.53	271.81
Central Queensland	165.51	-
Darling Downs	123.12	6.00
Far North Queensland	357.01	4.00
Gold Coast	70.18	-
Ipswich	23.81	-
Logan	10.93	-
Mackay-Whitsunday	66.03	-
Outback Queensland	67.38	-
Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay	145.85	0.80
Townsville	100.70	-
Wide Bay	156.26	-
Total FTE	**2,508.31**	**282.61**

[1] Estimated actuals as at pay period ending 21 June 2019, excluding staff on leave without pay and CAA and Arts Queensland staff. FTEs reflected in the SDS for 30 June 2019 are an estimate. Any difference principally reflects position being actively recruited or staff on leave without pay.
[2] Regions are mapped by post code to State Government Region as per State Budget Papers.
[3] Non-front line staff are those that are identified as providing a Corporate function as per Public Service Commission definitions https://www.forgov.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/mohri-workforce-definitions.pdf

INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 16

Asked on Friday, 28 June 2019

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the DES departmental budget summary on Service Delivery Statement, page 23, will the Minister advise the total annual expenditure relating to conferences, workshops, catering and other hospitality expenses by departments and agencies under the administration of the Minister for 2018-19 and the budgeted amount of 2019-20?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

Government departments only host conferences and workshops or public servants attend such events, in accordance with departmental approval processes, and the *Code of Conduct for the Queensland Public Service* would apply to the attendance of public servants at such events. Financial transactions involving departments are annually and independently audited by the Queensland Audit Office.

I am advised that the Department of Environment and Science has recorded expenditure of $1.8 million relating to conferences, workshops, catering and other hospitality for the 2018-19 financial year.

In relation to the budgeted amount for 2019-20, the department is undertaking its internal budget build and is currently unable to provide this information at the detailed account level.

The department manages a significant and complex regulatory environment.

Conferences and workshops help to inform policy making; improve management of protected areas; develop new science partnerships and knowledge; and attract investment and jobs to Queensland. They facilitate the department’s engagement and education with community, industry and key stakeholders (including the resources, business, agricultural and environmental sectors); as well as internal staff, to support important initiatives.

Conferences and workshops benefit Queenslanders by providing an important engagement platform to showcase key departmental activities, and seek feedback which assists the department to improve the services and programs it provides. They enable two-way generation of ideas and foster innovation, and support the development of staff to ensure a public service that is responsive, effective and efficient.

INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 17

Asked on Friday, 28 June 2019

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the DES departmental budget Service Delivery Statement, page 4, leadership of the Land Restoration Fund, will the Minister advise (by financial year in table format) the amount of:

a) government funds expended,
b) private sector funds expended, and
c) the amount of Australian Carbon Credits Units issued for 2017-18 and 2018-19 and budgeted for 2019-20?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The flagship $500 million Land Restoration Fund (LRF) was announced as a 2017 election commitment. Such a significant program requires substantial work to operationalise, and that work has been underway since the election. Good progress has been made, with the first six pilot projects (with a total value of $1.2 million) announced on 4 April 2019. These pilot projects will feed the pipeline of carbon farming projects that produce priority co-benefits and will include work to: enhance savanna burning activities by Aboriginal communities in Cape York; identify priority sites for blue carbon or restoring threatened species habitat; and better understand how to apply the beef herd method in areas affected by the north Queensland floods.

On 24 July 2019, another six projects with a total value of more than $4 million were announced under the *Catalysing Action* stream. These projects will focus on restoring tidal connectivity and wetlands; using traditional mosaic and fire-stick farming practices to control non-native species; rainforest restoration techniques; building capacity of First Nations peoples to deliver vegetation management carbon; a vegetation landscape management proof of concept; and increasing koala habitat.

To date, the Department of Environment and Science (DES) has expended $2.98 million to establish the LRF. DES is drawing on this allocation to invest in priority research and science activities; work with stakeholders; develop LRF governance and legal structures; and commission and assess pilot projects.

It is anticipated that the LRF will attract private sector funding following its establishment with an appropriate governance structure to enable this type of transaction.

DES has entered into, or is currently negotiating, a number of contracts that will result in the issuance of Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) by the Clean Energy Regulator, which will be purchased by DES under the contracts. ACCUs are delivered and accredited over time as trees grow or soil carbon is improved (the carbon accrues) or the release of carbon is avoided through managing livestock and fire.

INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 18

Asked on Friday, 28 June 2019

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the DES Service Delivery Statement, page 6, statement to enhance the Environmental Impact Statement assessment process, will the Minister detail (by financial year and in table format) over 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19:

a) the average annual decision period for standard petroleum and gas assessments,
b) the average annual decision period for minor petroleum and gas assessments, and
c) the value of new projects approved to progress under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

Over the past three financial years, the Department of Environment and Science has not undertaken any standard or minor amendment petroleum and gas assessments, as a direct result of an Environmental Impact Statement being undertaken.

The value of new projects is not a requirement of any application for an environmental authority under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 19

Asked on Friday, 28 June 2019

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the DES Service Delivery Statement, page 16, in relation to Arts Queensland, can the Minister detail what arts programs that received funding in 2018-19 will receive less (or no) funding in 2019-20, and how much each of these programs cost in 2018-19?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

There are no arts programs, which received funding in 2018-19, that will receive less or no funding in 2019-20.

In 2018-19 the following amounts were distributed under each program:
- Queensland Arts Showcase Program - $3.2 million
- Organisations Fund - $7.64 million
- Playing Queensland Fund - $1.9 million
- Arts Infrastructure Investment Fund - $6.95 million.

In 2019-20 the Arts Infrastructure Investment Fund will receive an additional $5 million over two years (ending in 2020-21) to modernise Queensland Performing Arts Centre's lighting via the installation of energy efficient LED lighting.

INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 20

Asked on Friday, 28 June 2019

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister outline how events supported by Arts Queensland and the Queensland Government are delivering for Queenslanders?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Queensland Government, through Arts Queensland, the arts statutory bodies and arts companies, supports a wide range of arts and cultural events. These events play an important role in delivering positive economic, social and cultural outcomes for Queenslanders, their communities and the State.

Arts Queensland’s funding programs support a number of organisations responsible for an array of vibrant arts and cultural events across Queensland, including the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, Australian Festival of Chamber Music, Woodford Folk Festival, Bleached Arts for the Bleach Festival, and Yarrabah Aboriginal Council for the Yarrabah Band Festival.

These events provide opportunities for Queenslanders by enabling and supporting access to events, enlivening communities, fostering cultural identity and building social engagement.

They also contribute to local economies by supporting job creation and cultural tourism, providing opportunities for Queensland artists and arts and cultural organisations to showcase their work and build audiences, and increasing the attractiveness and liveability of communities.

Major events delivered by State arts companies also encourage community engagement as well as delivering benefits to the economy and support job creation in the sector. In 2018, Major Brisbane Festivals contributed more than $38 million in the Queensland economy, with more than 1.14 million people attending ticketed and public events.

Exclusive seasons, exhibitions and performances saw Queensland Cultural Centre visitation increase to over 7 million in 2017-18, and its national and international reputation continues to grow.

Events across the Cultural Centre provide visitors with opportunities to engage in activities which may not otherwise be available to them, such as the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art's *9th Asia Pacific Triennial* (APT9) which saw 4,665 average daily visitors and a total of 718,369 visitors.

APT9 Kids on Tour visited more than 100 regional and remote art galleries, libraries, venues and community centres throughout Queensland from January to April 2019. This series of free events was developed especially for children and families by selected artists from the Gallery's flagship APT9 exhibition.

These exhibits and access to the State's cultural collection foster an environment for learning and understanding of Queensland's cultural and natural heritage.

Use of technology has helped increase the reach of supported events to more Queenslanders. In 2018, the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) welcomed Teatro alla Scala Ballet from Italy, the first time the company has performed in Australia. A performance of Don Quixote was simulcast live to regional Queenslanders in 10 locations including Mount Isa, Halifax and Townsville.

As part of the 2019 QPAC International Series, more than 2,600 people across regional Queensland experienced a performance by Russia's Bolshoi Ballet direct from Brisbane's Lyric Theatre via a free simulcast.

Additionally, 23,854 people attended performances of Jewels and Spartacus in Brisbane.

Queensland Government support of arts and cultural events also play a significant role in promoting Queensland on the international stage. The World Science Festival Brisbane, hosted by Queensland Museum is the only extension of the World Science Festival. In 2019 the festival had more than 100 events at six locations across the State, and recorded more than 205,000 visitors - the largest visitation recorded since the event commenced in 2016.

Funding announced in the 2019-20 Queensland State Budget will continue to provide support to arts and cultural events which deliver benefits for Queensland.