TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. G1
Asked on 4 December 2020

THE TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI) —

QUESTION

With reference to page 5 of the Department of Energy and Public Works Service Delivery Statement, will the Minister please advise the Committee what actions the Palaszczuk Government has taken to support the sustainability and professionalism of private building certifiers in Queensland?

ANSWER

Since setting the framework for reform through the 2017 Queensland Building Plan, the Queensland Government has continued to work with private certifier groups and nationally to support the sustainability and professionalism of private building certifiers in Queensland.

Queensland Building Plan reforms focused on strengthening independence and improving professional standards and compliance of certifiers. The first phase of these reforms was delivered with legislative amendments progressed through the *Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020*.

These reforms aim to strengthen the independence of certifiers, enhance the certification and inspection process and improve industry standards.

Professional standards are being strengthened through more effective regulation of certifiers, there is greater empowerment of owners in building certification assessment process and promotion of higher standards of integrity within the sector.

Transparency in the inspection and certification process has been enhanced. For example, owners can request additional inspections or have earlier access to inspection documentation and must be given information about the certifier's responsibilities.

It was identified that consumers need confidence that certifiers are independent and acting in the public interest. Further, it is now clear certifier's primary duty is to act in the public interest and that doing this does not create a conflict of interest. Supporting this, a revised Code of Conduct was issued in October 2020.

Measures also improve professional standards. Accreditation standards bodies will have to have their educational and experiential standards and professional development schemes reviewed at least every five years.

A demerit point system is being introduced for certifiers and if they accumulate 30 points over three-years their licence can be disqualified. The QBCC will also be able to publish certain information about a breach of a demerit point offence.

Acknowledging the ongoing concerns with required professional indemnity insurance, the Queensland Government has acted both nationally and in Queensland. This work has seen the numbers of certifiers able to work remain steady. The Queensland Government again amended the Building Regulation 2006 to conditionally allow private certifiers to apply for a licence if they hold professional indemnity insurance with a cladding-related exclusion until 30 June 2022.

Nationally, work continued across jurisdictions and in consultation with certifier groups and the insurance industry, to consider both the accessibility and affordability of professional indemnity insurance. Certifier groups remain focussed on approving professional standards schemes for their sector.

Overall, the Building Act amendments will improve consumer confidence and address some of the issues highlighted in the Building Confidence Report. Queensland has fully or substantially delivered 20 of the 24 recommendations from this report, with the remaining four recommendations either finalised or progressing through national processes.

The Queensland Government, through its role on the Australian Building Codes Board, continues to support developing a framework for nationally consistent implementation of Building Confidence Report recommendations. This involves a number of recommendations relating to improving the integrity and supporting certifiers to perform their critical co-regulatory responsibilities.

Where concerns have been identified, the Queensland Government has also taken action. In October 2019, the use of Aluminium Composite Panels with a polyethylene core of greater than 30 percent and expanded polystyrene was banned on class 2–9 buildings of Type A or B construction, for example, hospitals, child care centres and apartment buildings over three storeys.

Work in this important area will continue over this term of government.

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1
Asked on 4 December 2020

THE TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI) —

QUESTION

With reference to page 15 of the SDS, will the Minister provide a detailed breakdown of the $48.3 million of assets which were either sold or revalued in 2019-20 including details on (a) asset description, (b) asset location, (c) transaction or revaluation value, (d) date of transaction or revaluation?

ANSWER

The $48.3 million of assets does not refer to physical assets. Under the Queensland Home Warranty Scheme outstanding debts are classed as assets that are recoverable and subsequently appear as such in the Service Delivery Statement.

In the 2019-20 financial year the Accounting Standards AASB 136 *Impairment of Assets* was revised to preserve that an asset is carried at no more than its recoverable amount.

In response, the QBCC undertook a review of outstanding debts owed as a result of approved claims under the Queensland Home Warranty Scheme. This resulted in a reduction of $48.2 million in the QBCC's exposure to uncollectable claim debts and the subsequent asset position. Uncollectable debts occur due to a variety of circumstances such as building contractors with debts owing becoming insolvent.

Further relevant information is contained on pages 61 and 62 of the QBCC's 2019-20 Annual Report.

A further $0.13 million can be attributed to re-valuation at market value of the QBCC's investment with the Queensland Investment Corporation.

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. G2
Asked on 4 December 2020

THE TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI) —

QUESTION

With reference to page 5 of the Department of Energy and Public Works Service Delivery Statement, will the Minister outline for the Committee how the Palaszczuk Government is creating a fairer and more sustainable building and construction industry in Queensland?

ANSWER

The Queensland Government has delivered significant reforms to provide Queensland subcontractors confidence that they will get paid in full, on time, every time.

The first step was the introduction of nation-leading security of payment laws, including project bank accounts (PBAs) for government projects valued at between $1 - $10 million. Since PBAs commenced on 1 March 2018, the contract value of PBA projects has eclipsed $1.3 billion, providing critical certainty for those subcontractors engaged on these projects.

The Queensland Government also reformed the Minimum Financial Requirements (MFR) for licensing, bringing back the requirement for contractors to provide financial information to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC) each year. This provides the QBCC critical oversight over a licensee’s financial position, meaning it can act quicker to mitigate the impacts of insolvency and corporate collapse.

The Queensland Government has continued its security of payment reforms throughout 2020. Working with industry, the government delivered key enhancements to the laws through the *Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020*. The Act implements recommendations from the Building Industry Fairness Reforms Evaluation and Implementation Panel (the Panel) and the Special Joint Taskforce, to ensure the laws continue to deliver fairer outcomes for the building and construction industry.

From 1 October, the QBCC has greater prosecuting powers to investigate false declarations about subcontractor payments. Head contractors are now required to provide a supporting statement with their payment claims, stating all subcontractors have been paid and if not, the reasons for non-payment. The QBCC can investigate and take action, including prosecution, if no supporting statement is given or statements include false or misleading information.

And there are more ways for both head contractors and subcontractors to recoup monies owed, including by issuing a payment withholding request to parties higher in the contractual chain and, for head contractors, a charge over property.

From 1 March 2021, a streamlined trust account framework will replace PBAs. In line with the Panel’s recommendations, the number of accounts will be reduced. Instead of three trust accounts, one project trust account will be needed for each eligible contract. If a head contractor holds cash retentions, then one retention trust account needs to be held per contractor. The framework will be simpler for head contractors to administer and support the transition to the full implementation of trust accounts in the private sector.

The QBCC has been given strong powers to ensure that all parties comply with the requirements of the new trust account framework.

While they commence with Government projects, these reforms will roll out progressively to apply to the whole industry. By 1 January 2023, all government, private sector, local government, statutory authority and government owned corporation building contracts valued at $1 million more will benefit from the protections of a project trust account.

These reforms are creating a fairer and more sustainable building and construction industry that continues to grow with confidence. At the end of 2018–19, there were approximately 90,000 licensed contractors in Queensland and this figure has remained steady, despite the impact COVID-19 has had on the economy.

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 2
Asked on 4 December 2020

THE TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI) —

QUESTION

With reference to page 2 of the SDS, will the Minister outline the number of fraud and/or misconduct investigations currently being undertaken either by the department, Energy Queensland, or the Crime and Corruption Commission, regarding the employees or contractors of the department or Energy Queensland with specific reference to the overall types of complaints and the number of staff currently on suspension as a result of these investigations?

ANSWER

It is not appropriate to comment on investigations currently being undertaken by the Department of Energy and Public Works, Energy Queensland or the Crime and Corruption Commission.

The Public Service Commission meets its legislative requirement under section 88N of the *Public Service Act 2008* to publish annual conduct and performance data by 30 September each year.

A link to this report is below:
https://www.forgov.qld.gov.au/2019-20-conduct-and-performance-data

The Public Service Commission data does not include matters involving corrupt conduct.

Corrupt conduct matters fall under the jurisdiction of the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) and a corruption allegations data dashboard is published at Corruption allegations data dashboard | CCC - Crime and Corruption Commission Queensland

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. G3
Asked on 4 December 2020

THE TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI) —

QUESTION

With reference to page 5 of the Department of Energy and Public Works Service Delivery Statement, will the Minister advise the Committee the actions the Palaszczuk Government is taking to ensure the safety of our built environment and the professionalism of building trades in Queensland?

ANSWER

The Queensland Government continues to have a strong focus on the safety of the built environment and the professionalism of building trades in Queensland.

The Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC), as Queensland's building industry regulator, continues to undertake compliance activities and enforce safety standards within the built environment. During 2019-20, the QBCC suspended 448 licences and cancelled 247 licences under section 48 of the *Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991.* Offences under this section include, but are not limited to: failure to pay debts, licensee not fit and proper to hold a licence, or licensee poses serious risk to health and safety.

The QBCC has also continued to enforce its powers under the non-conforming building products legislation. These laws establish a chain of responsibility to ensure building products used in Queensland are safe and comply with relevant standards. During 2019-20, the QBCC finalised 108 cases in relation to non-conforming building products. The scope of finalised cases includes enquiries on 43 product families and 33 specific sites.

Work commenced under the Non-Conforming Building Products Audit Taskforce also continues through the work of the Safer Buildings Taskforce established in October 2019.

The Safer Buildings Taskforce is providing oversight and advice about remediation of private affected buildings moving through the final part of the Safer Buildings combustible cladding checklist, as well as assisting to advance the Queensland Government response to the national Building Confidence Report recommendations.

To further improve safety, the use of Aluminium Composite Panels with a polyethylene core of greater than 30 percent and expanded polystyrene was banned on class 2–9 buildings of Type A or B construction, for example, hospitals, child care centres and apartment buildings over three storeys, in October 2019.

In relation to professionalism, important reforms have been made in safety areas such fire protection and mechanical services, including medical gas work. An enhanced fire protection licensing framework has been finalised and a new mechanical services licence is being implemented. These reforms ensure licensees have appropriate qualifications and experience for this work.

Further, amendments to the *Architects Act 2002* and *Professional Engineers Act 2002* provide the Board of Architects of Queensland and the Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland with improved auditing and investigatory powers, for example the ability to enter and search premises, to enforce compliance with the legislation and uphold high professional standards. These amendments also support the recommendations of the Building Confidence Report.

The Ministerial Construction Council played a key role in setting a path for ongoing improvements in the professionalism of building trades in the future in developing a framework for compulsory continuing professional development. This work also builds on a recommendation from the Building Confidence Report about requiring continuing professional development in the National Construction Code. Work on this framework, and other reforms, will continue over the course of this term of government.

These reforms have placed a stronger focus on compliance and enforcement by strengthening the QBCC’s powers, because industry must be supported by a strong, effective regulatory framework.

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 3
Asked on 4 December 2020

THE TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI) —

QUESTION

With reference to page 2 of the SDS, will the Minister outline the number of contracts and the value of those contracts that have been awarded under the current Queensland Government procurement policy to companies that do not have an office in Queensland, since the current procurement policy began in 2017 (between September 2017 and December 2020)?

ANSWER

The Queensland Procurement policy (QPP) *Buy Queensland* approach is focused on maximising safe, decent jobs for Queenslanders and supporting ethical local businesses that support those jobs and supply chain benefits to the local community. It requires agencies to conduct a local benefits test for all significant procurement activities where a weighting of up to 30% must be applied for businesses to demonstrate how they will support local jobs, opportunities for local supply chains, apprentices and trainees.

QTenders indicates that during the period 1 September 2017 to 30 November 2020, only 883 contracts of a total of 6,261 contracts were awarded through QTenders to businesses with a registered main business location outside Queensland, amounting approximately $1.33 billion of a total of $9.58 billion.

A number of these businesses while not registered in Queensland, maintain a presence in Queensland and employ Queenslanders. For example, Telstra is a supplier to the Queensland Government that has its main office registered outside of Queensland but has a number of locations and significant staffing presence here.

Assumptions and Limitations

- *Data is for the number of contracts awarded through QTenders for the period 1 September 2017 to 30 November 2020.*
- *Queensland Government agencies, Government Owned Corporations and Statutory Bodies are required to use QTenders for all open tenders.*
- *QTenders supplied data does not include procurement contracts from standing offer arrangements or small procurements, like request for quotes, corporate card procurement, and sole vendor procurement.*
- *In cases where there are multiple suppliers, only one supplier has been considered for the contract.*
- *Business location data is entered directly by suppliers, agencies and users, this captures the local office details that are registered in QTenders. The Department of Energy and Public Works does not validate this data with the Australian Business Register business registration data.*

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. G4
Asked on 4 December 2020

THE TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI) —

QUESTION

With reference to page 5 of the Department of Energy and Public Works Service Delivery Statement, will the Minister advise the Committee of the Palaszczuk Government's work to house frontline service personnel in regional Queensland?

ANSWER

The Queensland Government is committed to providing safe and secure accommodation for government employees delivering frontline services in regional and remote locations across the State. Employee housing of an appropriate standard is essential to attract and retain skilled frontline workers to regional and remote communities.

A portfolio of approximately 3100 state-owned residences provides homes for health workers, police officers, teachers and other government staff across regional and remote Queensland. This portfolio is supplemented by the use of private rental options for employees in urban centres where there is a strong private rental market that can support agencies accommodation requirements.

The provision of employee housing for staff delivering these key frontline services is critical particularly in remote locations and in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities where there is a shortage of private rental properties or no other suitable accommodation options.

In 2019-20 a total of $78.1 million was invested in programs for the employee housing portfolio including the construction of new dwellings, upgrades, improvements and priority maintenance.

Construction of new dwellings
In 2019-20, $24.4 million was invested in new employee housing across remote communities across Queensland, including 19 residences in Aramac, Camooweal, Dajarra, Mornington Island, Palm Island and Woorabinda, supporting 337 jobs over the four year life of the program.

In addition, a further $5.6 million was invested to complete stage 2 of a secure housing precinct in Aurukun, supporting 75 jobs over its life. This multi-unit precinct of 24 residences was constructed with the highest level of safety and amenity for Department of Education staff.

Key projects scheduled for delivery in 2020-21 include an additional 15 residences in Laura, Normanton, Hopevale, Cooktown, Warraber Island and Sabai Island. Thirteen (13) residences will also be completed as part of a multi-unit development on Thursday Island.

Providing housing upgrades, improvements and maintenance

A further $48.1 million was invested in maintenance, upgrade and improvement programs to enhance the quality and standard of existing government employee housing, supporting 56 jobs across regional Queensland.

These upgrades and improvements are designed to improve the amenity of the dwellings and include air-conditioning installation, new kitchens, bathrooms and laundry upgrades.

Maintenance works included internal and external painting, plumbing and carpentry works.

These employee housing programs have delivered improved quality of accommodation for staff and supported agencies frontline service expansions into regional areas while supporting local trades and the broader community.

The Queensland Government’s commitment to house frontline service personnel in regional and remote locations and investment in its portfolio supports jobs for local builders, carpenters, plumbers, painters and electricians and supply opportunities for local businesses. New construction projects also provide ongoing training for local tradespeople and apprentices.

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 4
Asked on 4 December 2020

THE TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI) —

QUESTION

With reference to page 13 of the SDS, will the Minister advise the number of self-certifying category 1 (SC1) and self-certifying category 2 (SC2) who are yet to report for the 2019-20 financial year?

ANSWER

As at 9 December, 2020 a total of 14,664 self-certifying licensees (7,892 of 24,011 SC1 licensees and 6,772 of 31,977 SC2 licensees) have not lodged annual reporting for the 2019 annual reporting date.

The regulatory focus to this point has been to ensure that those at greatest risk of doing financial harm in the sector (Categories 1-7 licensees) complied with their obligations to lodge. The regulatory focus was then to undertake a review of information lodged to determine whether those licensees met the minimum financial requirements.

From the 2019 annual reporting information lodged by SC1 and SC2 licensees, the Queensland Building and Construction Commission commenced 42 financial audits where licensees were identified as exceeding their permitted maximum revenue.

These audits resulted in 19 notices being issued requiring licensees to show cause why their licences should not be suspended for failing to comply with an audit notice. Eight (8) notices have been issued requiring licensees to show cause why their licences should not be suspended for failing to satisfy the minimum financial requirements.

As at 9 December 2020, four (4) licences have been suspended and one (1) has been cancelled for failing to comply with an audit notice.

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. G5
Asked on 4 December 2020

THE TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI) —

QUESTION

With reference to page 16 of the Department of Energy and Public Works Service Delivery Statement, will the Minister outline for the Committee the role of QBuild in supporting the Palaszczuk Government's economic recovery plan and jobs for Queenslanders?

ANSWER

In 2019, QBuild commenced the recruitment of additional apprentices to address the critical shortage of apprenticeships in the construction industry and provide apprentices with high quality training opportunities across the State.

QBuild has also embarked on an expansion of frontline trade-based staff, with an emphasis on training construction-based apprentices. Over the past two years, QBuild has engaged a number of apprentices and trade staff in painting, carpentry, electrical, plumbing and refrigeration mechanic trades as well as one stonemasonry apprentice to bring the total trade work force to 351 as at 31 October 2020.

An additional 40 trade staff will commence in January and May 2021 and an further 20 apprentices will commence in January and February 2021.

These apprentices and trade staff will be based across regions identified as having skills shortages including South West Queensland, the South East, Townsville, Cairns, Toowoomba, Rockhampton and Mackay.

QBuild helped deliver approximately $1.6B of capital, construction and building maintenance works in 2019-20. In 2019-20, maintenance works was approximately $1B of which approximately $774M was with local contractors. This equates to 3,393 Local Zone 1 contractors engaged.

QBuild supports local contractors through its maintenance works by engaging in the first instance, quality local contractors within 125km of where works are completed.

In 2019-20 82.27% of total spend with Local Zone 1 contractors was achieved for maintenance works. For 2020-21 as at 30 September, spend with Local Zone 1 contractors has increased to 82.78%.

In 2019-20, 79.34% of projects with a tender estimate of over $250,000 included a local benefits test through the use of relevant local non-price criteria or were select list to only Local Zone 1 contractors. For 2020-21 as at 30 September, this has increased to 84.51%. The local benefits test mandates that contractors provide evidence through the tender process on how they will stimulate and involve the local community in which the works are delivered.

QBuild recognises that cash flow is essential to the viability of contractors and subcontractors and has introduced measures to ensure that payments are made as quickly as possible. In response to concerns about small to medium sized enterprises experiencing financial hardship, between 2 April to 27 November 2020, QBuild has fast tracked 456,180 invoices totalling $938.8 million. This has been well received by industry.

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 5
Asked on 4 December 2020

THE TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI) —

QUESTION
With reference to the Department of Energy and Public works capital budget for 2020/21, SDS 3 page 7, will the Minister provide a list of approved projects, including:

a) the budget and scope of each project for 2019-20 and 2020-21 reported separately; and

b) the scheduled date of completion (reported in table format)?

ANSWER

Refer Attachment A.

ATTACHMENT A

DEPW - 2020-21 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
NON GOVERNMENT QUESTION 5 RESPONSE
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Project/Program Name and Scope	Scheduled Completion Date	2019-20 Actuals $'000	2020-21 Total BP3 Budget $'000	2020-21 SDS Capital Purchases Budget [1] $'000
Cairns Convention Centre - expansion and refurbishment of the Centre.	Mid 2022	13,694	84,506	54,709
Government Employee Housing - program to construct residences in rural and remote Queensland with 15 residences scheduled for delivery in 2020-21 and 17 residences in pre-tender phase scheduled for delivery in future financial years along with expenditure for capital upgrade works across the government employee housing portfolio.	Ongoing	41,260	56,565	48,110
Thomas Dixon Centre refurbishment - refurbishment and expansion of the Thomas Dixon Centre.	Mid 2021	9,841	52,683	42,392
Office Accommodation Program - expenditure on fitout requirements for government office accommodation both leased from the private sector and government owned.	Ongoing	9,861	26,149	22,203
Building works and capital replacements - capital upgrade works relating to Government owned commercial buildings.	Ongoing	3,638	2,254	609
Boggo Road Precinct Redevelopment - to maintain and activate the Boggo Road precinct.	Early 2021	661	2,215	1,274
Other Property Plant and Equipment - expenditure to replace plant and equipment items for the convention centres which are owned by the Department	Ongoing	284	1,377	1,377
Government Employee Housing Construction Aurukun - a project to construct a multi-unit precinct of 24 residences.	Achieved Practical Completion October 2019	5,565	832	832
Total Capital Purchases		**84,804**	**226,581**	**171,505**

[1] As a result of Machinery of Government changes the DEPW SDS Capital Purchases figure totalling $171.505 million pages 3-7 reports (from 1 December 2020) only the last seven months of the budget for the financial year and on this basis the total budget for 2020-21 has been included.

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 6
Asked on 4 December 2020

THE TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI) —

QUESTION

With reference to page 3 of the Department of Energy and Public Works Service Delivery Statement, will the Minister please advise as to what support the Queensland Government has provided to renewables projects that will benefit the Townsville region?

ANSWER

Townsville is well positioned to take advantage of future opportunities arising from the expected global demand for hydrogen over the next decade, guided by the Palaszczuk Government's Queensland Hydrogen Industry Strategy 2019-24.

We have world class infrastructure, advanced manufacturing skills and experience, abundant solar and wind resources and we're close to key export destinations like Japan and Korea. The National Hydrogen Strategy estimates global demand for hydrogen could reach over 70 Million tonnes by 2030. Analysis prepared as part of the National Hydrogen Strategy indicates incremental development of the industry up until 2030, contributing $1.7B to the economy and 2,800 jobs nationally.

There are several major hydrogen projects being progressed in the region already to tap into this opportunity.

The Queensland Government has committed up to $5M to Sun Metals Corporation's hydrogen project through the Hydrogen Industry Development Fund. Sun Metals will build a renewable hydrogen facility at its zinc refinery in Townsville, with plans to displace heavy vehicle diesel usage and other emerging opportunities both within the refinery and the broader region. Sun Metals' long-term plans are to refine and produce the world's first "Green Zinc", with net production of renewable energy greater than our total consumption.

Origin Energy have also announced a significant hydrogen project for Townsville. In 2021 they will start early engineering on a 36,000 tonne per year hydrogen export project in partnership with Kawasaki Heavy Industries. This is a valuable demonstration of how Queensland's emissions reduction, renewable energy and hydrogen industry development commitments make the state an attractive investment destination for energy companies.

To take advantage of the proximity to growing Asian market, we're investing $178 million in the publicly owned Port of Townsville, improving the channel, berths and transport links into the port. The Port of Townsville is already working with industry partners to understand the infrastructure and berthing requirements that may ultimately be required for the export of renewable hydrogen or its derivatives.

To make sure this emerging industry has the skills and training ready, we've committed $14.2M towards a Hydrogen and Renewable Energy training facility and Advanced Manufacturing Skills Lab, both located at Bohle Trade Training TAFE in Townsville.

The TAFE will deliver new facilities for world class training in renewable energy technologies including solar, wind and hydrogen as well as being part of a new advanced manufacturing hub.

As well as a Minister and Assistant Minister for Hydrogen, we have government appointed hydrogen champions. Our North Queensland champion, Les Walker MP from the electorate of Mundingburra will work with regional stakeholders to boost the profile of the industry and assist in implementing Queensland's Hydrogen Industry Strategy at the local level.

Following the success of round one of the Hydrogen Industry Development Fund, the Palaszczuk Government announced an additional $10M funding injection, bringing the total value of the fund to $25M. The government will be consulting with industry in the new year to ensure the fund is effective as possible in advancing the Queensland hydrogen industry, including in key regional hubs like Townsville.

Whether it is through skills, industry projects or by building local confidence in this emerging industry, the Palaszczuk Government will continue to ensure the policy and investment settings in Queensland encourage the growth of the hydrogen industry.

The Townsville region is known for its good quality solar and wind resources which will not only power renewable hydrogen facilities but are also contributing to the greening of our grid. Since 2015, when the large scale renewables boom was kicked off by the Queensland Government's Solar 150 program, new renewable energy projects have been developed around Townsville including Clare Solar Farm, Haughton Solar Farm, Ross River Solar Farm, and Sun Metals Solar Farm. These projects have seen more than 450 megawatts of new renewable energy capacity added to the system, bringing more than $850 million of investment to the region and almost 1000 jobs during construction.

The Palaszczuk Government also committed its support for the CopperString project. We have put our money on the table and spent $15.98M to show our commitment to a secure, affordable and clean electricity supply. A proposed 1100km transmission line for North Queensland that will support economic and employment opportunities from renewable generation investment from Townsville across to the North West.

The $145M Queensland Renewable Energy Zones initiative will deliver further renewable investment in northern Queensland, along with central and southern zones. Development of these zones will enable coordination of renewable projects where there are high quality resources, increasing renewable growth and facilitating economic recovery in Townsville and across our regions.

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 06
Asked on 4 December 2020

THE TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI) —

QUESTION

With reference to page 3 in SDS 3 Energy Services highlights, specifically *'help agricultural businesses (farms) realise energy savings'*, will the Minister advise the number of individual national meter identifiers (NMIs) for businesses in regional Queensland still accessing legacy tariffs on the following expiring tariffs, 20, 21, 22, 37, 47, 48, 62, 65, 66 (reported separately)?

ANSWER

The number of individual national meter identifiers (NMIs) for businesses in regional Queensland accessing obsolete tariffs is provided in the following tables.

Obsolete Tariff (phase-out 1 July 2021)	**Total Number of NMIs[1]**
Tariff 20 (large)	790
Tariff 21	10,505
Tariff 22 (large)	519
Tariff 37	128
Tariff 62	4,955
Tariff 65	2,083
Tariff 66	2,917

Obsolete Tariff (phase-out 1 July 2022)	**Total Number of NMIs[1]**
Tariff 47	3
Tariff 48	10

[1] As at November 2020

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 7

Asked on 4 December 2020

THE TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI) —

With reference to page 3 of the Department of Energy and Public Works Service Delivery Statement, will the Minister update the committee on how real time fuel price reporting is benefitting Queensland consumers?

ANSWER

The two year fuel price reporting trial has been a great success and I am pleased to advise that it is now a permanent service to motorists in Queensland.

The two year trial started on 3 December 2018 requiring all fuel retailers to update their prices within 30 minutes of a price change at the bowser. Fuel price data is provided free of charge to fuel price app and website developers.

There are already thirteen apps and websites using the fuel price data to make it easy for motorists to save at the bowser by shopping around for the best priced fuel.

As part of the trial, the Queensland Government engaged experts at Griffith University to evaluate the impacts of fuel price reporting on fuel prices. Griffith University found that in the 12 months to June 2020, the trial collectively saved motorists in South East Queensland $9.8 million due to its impacts on petrol prices.

Griffith University also found that motorists around the state can save by shopping around using the apps and websites that use the fuel price data. Griffith University found the following potential savings per year if motorists bought petrol at the cheapest price available instead of at the average price.

Potential annual savings at bowser if shopping around (July 2019 to June 2020)				
SEQ	**Brisbane**	**Ipswich**	**Gold Coast**	**Lockyer Valley**
Savings	$147	$144	$129	$92
Regional	**Rockhampton**	**Cairns**	**Mount Isa**	
Savings	$37	$35	$12	

Usage data shows there were about 600,000 fuel price checks being made per month during the trial.

Given the success of this trial and the uptake from motorists, the Government made an election commitment to make the existing arrangements permanent at the end of the two-year period.

On 5 December 2020, I announced that fuel price reporting has now transitioned from a trial to a permanent service. This has provided certainty to industry and will keep the power in the hands of motorists to save by shopping around.

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 7
Asked on 4 December 2020

THE TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI) —

With reference to page 3 in SDS 3 Energy Services highlights, specifically 'help agricultural businesses (farms) realise energy savings' will the Minister outline the following in relation to the Energy Savers Plus Program Extension:

a) How many of the promised 200 free audits have been conducted on Queensland agricultural businesses,
b) How many agricultural businesses have applied for 50% co-contribution after these audits;
c) How many agricultural businesses have successfully received the 50% co-contribution and;
d) The total in funding that has been paid out through the 50% co-contribution.

ANSWER
The Energy Savers Plus Program Extension is an initiative under the Affordable Energy Plan that provides for up to 200 agricultural businesses to receive free customised energy audits, as well as cash co-contributions to help realise energy savings. The Queensland Government will match dollar for dollar funding up to $20,000 for each participating farmer to implement energy improvements.

The Queensland Farmers' Federation was selected through an open tender process to partner with the Queensland Government and deliver the energy audits.

Queensland Farmers' Federation has completed all 180 energy audits for farms remaining in the program. There were just over 20 withdrawals from the program due to the impact of COVID-19, bushfires, drought, cyclones and personal health issues.

As at 30 November 2020, 95 farms had applied for funding. Of these, 94 farms have been approved to access over $1.617 million to undertake energy efficiency upgrades and reduce their energy costs.

Many of these farmers will be considering the audit results before applying for funding, and it is pleasing to see investments already being made.

So far, 42 farmers have implemented and received a co-contribution. These 42 farmers have cumulatively received over $566,000 in financial assistance.

Due to COVID-19, the Queensland Government decided to extend the time available for participants to implement funded audit recommendations until 1 June 2021.

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 8
Asked on 4 December 2020

THE TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI) —

QUESTION

With reference to page 2 of the Department of Energy and Public Works Service Delivery Statement will the Minister please advise the outcomes of the trials of solar on rental properties?

ANSWER

The $4 million trial, which ended on 30 June 2020, was an initiative of the Palaszczuk Government's Affordable Energy Plan.

It helped 670 landlords and tenants in Bundaberg, Gladstone and Townsville work together to install solar systems and share the financial benefits that come with solar power.

That's 670 landlords who collectively received more than $2.25 million in rebates, at an average payment of $3,360, to put toward the up-front cost of installing a solar system that will add value to their investment property.

670 tenants will be better off by an average of $600 per year from participating in the trial. This includes families and people in social housing who would not otherwise have had access to solar to reduce their electricity costs.

The program also supported our solar industry with 40 Queensland-based approved solar retailers installing 4 megawatts of solar across the three local government areas included in the trial. This will help us achieve out 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030 target.

Overall, the trial has shown that solar systems can be used in rental properties to create a win-win outcome for both landlords and tenants.

Moving forward I will be writing to the Housing Minister so we can work together to unlock this important market and expand our renewable energy sector, which continues to create jobs and drive economic growth.

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 8
Asked on 4 December 2020

THE TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI) —

With reference to page 3 in SDS 3 Energy Services highlights, specifically to '*regulate and provide strategic oversight of Queensland's electricity and gas supply industries*' will the Minister outline the following in relation to the Government owned corporations (GOC) under his responsibility:

a) The total compensation paid to executives and boards reported by each GOC as well as separately by year from 2015 to 2021;

b) The total paid in corporate entertainment reported by each GOC as well as separately by year from 2015 to 2021;

c) The total divided GOCs paid to shareholders (Queensland Government) reported by each GOC as well as separately by year from 2015 to 2021.

ANSWER

a) Please refer to annual reports of the government owned corporations for the relevant year.

b) Please refer to the statements of corporate intent (tabled with annual reports) of the government owned corporation for the relevant year.

c) Please refer to the Queensland state budget papers for the relevant year.

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 9
Asked on 4 December 2020

THE TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI) —

QUESTION

With reference to page 3 of the Department of Energy and Public Works Service Delivery Statement, will the Minister provide a breakdown of the investment in renewable energy and how this builds on the Palaszczuk Government's record?

ANSWER

The Queensland Government’s commitment to a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030 has created a favourable climate for renewable energy investment.

Since 2015, 44 large-scale renewable energy projects have commenced operations, become financially committed or are under construction. This involves more than $8.5 Billion (B) of investment in large-scale renewable energy investment and around 7000 jobs during the construction phase of these projects.

This renewable boom was coming from a very low base as there were zero large scale renewable projects built during the 2012-2015.

Of the projects built under the Palaszczuk Government, 33 are now operational and providing more than 2500 megawatts of clean energy into Queensland’s grid. This ensured that in the most recent quarter of the year, Queensland achieved its highest ever level of renewable energy generation, rising above 20 per cent.

More supply leads to lower prices. This investment has helped put downward pressure on electricity wholesale prices, to the benefit of all Queensland consumers. Average wholesale prices in Queensland for the last quarter were the lowest in the national energy market. (https://www.aer.gov.au/wholesale-markets/wholesale-statistic).

There are 11 other projects that are in various stages of construction, totalling more than 2000 megawatts of installed capacity. These projects will involve almost $3.4 billion in capital investment and more than 2400 jobs during construction. While this investment is good for Queensland as a whole, it is great for regional economies.

The 44 projects that have been driven by this Government’s support for the renewables industry have been spread across the state:

- 12 projects in North and Far North Queensland

- 15 projects in the Mackay, Issac, Whitsunday and Central regions
- 17 Projects in Southern Queensland and the Darling Downs.

While we have seen significant levels of investment, Queensland’s renewable energy output will more than double over the next decade as we aim for 50 per cent by 2030.

To support this growth, in August, the Queensland Government announced $145 million to unlock three Queensland Renewable Energy Zones (QREZ) in Northern, Central and Southern Queensland.

Development of QREZ enables coordination of renewable energy projects with high quality renewable conditions, increasing renewable energy growth and facilitating economic recovery.

The Government has also committed investing $500 million to enable Queensland’s publicly owned energy businesses Cleanco, Stanwell, CS Energy, Energy Queensland and Powerlink to build own and operate renewable assets and transmission infrastructure that will drive jobs in the clean energy sector.

Delivering new renewable energy projects will assist in putting downward pressure on electricity prices.

Importantly, delivering the Government’s 50% renewable energy target will deliver more investment to regional Queensland and create more jobs in the process.

Queensland Large-scale Renewable Energy Developments since 2015 by Region

Overall totals

- 44 Projects
- More than 4600 MW of installed capacity
- $8.5 billion in investment
- Approximately 7000 jobs in construction

Far North	Owner	Technology	Capacity (MW)	Capital Cost ($M)	Construction Jobs	Location	Region	Local Government	Status
Kidston Solar Project	Genex Power Limited	Solar	50	126	100	Kidston	Far North	Etheridge Shire Council	Operational
Lakeland Solar Farm	Conergy	Solar	11	43	60	Lakeland	Far North	Cook Shire Council	Operational
Mt Emerald Wind Farm	RATCH - Australia and Port Bajool	Wind	180	380	150	Mt Emerald	Far North	Mareeba Shire	Operational
Normanton Solar Farm	Scouller Energy	Solar	5	14	20	Normanton	Far North	Carpentaria Shire Council	Operational
Kaban Green Power Hub	Neoen	Wind	157	300	150	Ravenshoe	Far North	Tablelands Regional	Financial Close
Tableland Sugar Mill Stage 2	MSF Sugar	Bioenergy	24	75	80	Mareeba	Far North	Mareeba Shire	Under Construction
		6 projects	**427**	**938**	**560**				

North	Owner	Technology	Capacity (MW)	Capital Cost ($M)	Construction Jobs	Location	Region	Local Government	Status
Clare Solar Farm	FRV Services Australia Pty Ltd	Solar	110	190	200	Clare	North	Burdekin Shire	Operational
Haughton Solar Farm (Stage 1)	Pacific Hydro	Solar	100	240	250	Haughton	North	Burdekin Shire	Operational
Hughenden Solar Farm	Lighthouse Infrastructure	Solar	18	34	36	Hughenden	North	Flinders Shire Council	Operational
Kennedy Energy Park	Windlab and Erusus Energy	Wind	44	104	87	Hughenden	North	Flinders Shire Council	Operational
		Solar	15	36	30				
Ross River Solar Farm	Palisade	Solar	128	225	270	Townsville	North	Townsville City	Operational
Sun Metals Solar Farm	Sun Metals Corporation Pty	Solar	126	199	250	Townsville	North	Townsville City	Operational
		6 projects	**541**	**1028**	**1123**				

Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday	Owner	Technology	Capacity (MW)	Capital Cost ($M)	Construction Jobs	Location	Region	Local Government	Status
Clermont (Phase 1)	Wirsol Energy	Solar	93	180	150	Clermont	Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday	Isaac Regional Council	Operational
Collinsville Solar Power Station	RATCH-Australia Corporation	Solar	43	96	84	Collinsville	Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday	Whitsunday Regional Council	Operational
Daydream Solar Farm	Edify Energy	Solar	168	236	336	Collinsville	Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday	Whitsunday Regional Council	Operational
Hamilton Solar Farm	Edify Energy	Solar	58	138	115	Collinsville	Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday	Whitsunday Regional Council	Operational
Hayman Solar Farm	Edify Energy	Solar	58	79	116	Collinsville	Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday	Whitsunday Regional Council	Operational
Rugby Run Solar Farm	Adani Australia	Solar	65	100	175	Moranbah	Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday	Isaac Regional Council	Operational
Whitsunday Solar Farm	Edify Energy	Solar	58	122	116	Collinsville	Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday	Whitsunday Regional Council	Operational
Clarke Creek Wind Farm	Lacour	Wind	450	900	350	Clarke Creek	Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday	Isaac Regional Council	Financial Close
Middlemount Sun Farm	SUSI Partners	Solar	26	62	52	Middlemount	Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday	Isaac Regional Council	Under Construction
		9 projects	**1017**	**1913**	**1493**				

Central	Owner	Technology	Capacity (MW)	Capital Cost ($M)	Construction Jobs	Location	Region	Local Government	Status
Barcaldine Remote Community Solar Farm	Barcaldine Remote Community Solar Farm	Solar	20	70	100	Barcaldine	Central	Barcaldine Regional Council	Operational
Dunblane Solar Farm	YD Projects	Solar	7	17	14	Barcaldine	Central	Barcaldine Regional Council	Operational
Emerald Solar Park	RES Australia	Solar	72	110	200	Emerald	Central	Central Highlands Regional	Operational
Lilyvale Solar farm	FRV Services Australia Pty Ltd	Solar	100	240	200	Emerald	Central	Central Highlands Regional	Operational
Longreach Solar Farm	Canadian Solar (Australia) Pty	Solar	15	29	30	Longreach	Central	Longreach Regional Council	Operational
Moura Solar Farm	ESCO Pacific	Solar	82	197	164	Banana	Central	Banana Shire Council	Financial Close
		6 projects	**296**	**663**	**708**				

Darling Downs and South West	Owner	Technology	Capacity (MW)	Capital Cost ($M)	Construction Jobs	Location	Region	Local Government	Status
Baking Board Solar Farm	Eco Energy World	Solar	15	35	90	Chinchilla	Darling Downs and South West	Western Downs Regional Council	Operational
Coopers Gap Wind Farm	AGL Energy Ltd	Wind	453	850	200	Dalby	Darling Downs and South West	Western Downs Regional Council	Operational
Darling Downs Solar Farm	APA Group	Solar	121	217	220	Dalby	Darling Downs and South West	Western Downs Regional Council	Operational
Maryrorough (Brigalow) Solar Farm	Impact Investment Group	Solar	28	70	55	Toowoomba	Darling Downs and South West	Toowoomba Regional Council	Operational
Oakey Solar Farm (Stage 1)	Canadian Solar (Australia) Pty	Solar	25	48	50	Oakey	Darling Downs and South West	Toowoomba Regional Council	Operational
Oakey Solar Farm (Stage 2)	Foresight Group	Solar	55	86	110	Oakey	Darling Downs and South West	Toowoomba Regional Council	Operational
Warwick Solar Farm	Terrain Solar/University of Queensland	Solar	64	125	100	Warwick	Darling Downs and South West	Southern Downs Regional	Operational
Yarranlea Solar Farm	Risen Energy	Solar	102	245	204	Toowoomba	Darling Downs and South West	Toowoomba Regional Council	Operational
Blue Grass Solar Farm	X-Elio	Solar	148	200	200	Chinchilla	Darling Downs and South West	Western Downs Regional Council	Under Construction
Columboola Solar Farm	Hana Financial Investment	Solar	162	300	400	Miles	Darling Downs and South West	Western Downs Regional Council	Financial Close
Gangarri Solar Farm	Shell Australia	Solar	120	288	240	Wandoan	Darling Downs and South West	Western Downs Regional Council	Under Construction
MacIntyre (Karara) Wind Farm (CleanCo)	CleanCo	Wind	102	100	80	Inglewood	Darling Downs and South West	Goondiwindi Regional Council	Financial Close
MacIntyre Wind Farm	Acciona Energy	Wind	400	400	320	Inglewood	Darling Downs and South West	Goondiwindi Regional Council	Financial Close
Western Downs Green Power Hub	Neoen	Solar	400	570	400	Dalby	Darling Downs and South West	Western Downs Regional Council	Financial Close
		14 projects	**2194**	**3534**	**2669**				

Wide Bay Burnett	Owner	Technology	Capacity (MW)	Capital Cost ($M)	Construction Jobs	Location	Region	Local Government	Status
Childers Solar Farm	Elliott	Solar	56	210	112	Childers	Wide Bay Burnett	Bundaberg Regional	Operational
Susan River Solar Farm	Elliott	Solar	85	175	200	Maryborough	Wide Bay Burnett	Fraser Coast Regional	Operational
		2 projects	**141**	**385**	**312**				

South East Queensland	Owner	Technology	Capacity (MW)	Capital Cost ($M)	Construction Jobs	Location	Region	Local Government	Status
Sunshine Coast Solar Farm	Sunshine Coast Council	Solar	15	50	60	Valdora	South East	Sunshine Coast Council	Operational
		1 project	**15**	**50**	**60**				

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 9
Asked on 4 December 2020

THE TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI) —

QUESTION

With reference to page 5 of SDS 1 on the Government's expense measures will the Minister outline the following on the promised Hydrogen Industry Development Fund:
a) What deliverables and KPIs that this new fund will be measured upon;
b) What will be the expected rate of return for Queensland taxpayers on these grants; and
c) The date the fund will be up and running and deliver its first dollar to successful applicants?

ANSWER

a)

The $10 million funding injection increases the Queensland Government's industry development commitment to the hydrogen industry to $25 million.

As there are diverse investment opportunities in the hydrogen industry, I will be undertaking consultation with industry to inform our approach to the use of this funding. It's important these funds are targeted to ensure we maximise the effectiveness for industry while delivering value for money. This consultative approach will inform the framework for the fund in 2021.

This is consistent with Action 2.6 of the Queensland Hydrogen Industry Strategy 2019-2024 to "Deliver the Hydrogen Industry Development Fund to facilitate private sector investment and leverage third party funding".

In addition to the Hydrogen Industry Development Fund, we have made strategic investments into other research and development and commercial projects to leverage private and Commonwealth funding.

This includes participation in the $162 million industry backed Future Energy Exports Cooperative Research Centre (FEnEx CRC) and the $8.5 million QUT led H2Xport project at the Redlands Research Facility.

These investments will support the research required into integration of hydrogen production with renewable energy generation and battery storage and also export technology solutions to achieve cost competitive hydrogen production and use.

We have also committed to the trial of five Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles in the government fleet from next year, which is providing an additional off take for the $4.2 million renewable hydrogen facility BOC is currently building at Bulwer Island.

Supporting the development of the renewable hydrogen industry, including targeted financial support for this emerging industry, is consistent with the Unite and Recover objective of not just rebuilding, but building back better, with enhanced sustainability outcomes and the creation of new highly skilled jobs.

b)

The first $15 million round of funding under the Hydrogen Industry Development Fund closed in August 2019. That funding round was heavily oversubscribed and has seen four successful projects announced.

Collectively these projects have estimated total project costs in excess of $37 million or over 2.5 times the funding committed by the government.

It is expected that similar or better leveraging will be achieved from the additional $10 million committed to hydrogen industry development through this budget.

The National Hydrogen Strategy estimates global demand for hydrogen could reach over 70 Million tonnes by 2030. Analysis prepared as part of the National Hydrogen Strategy indicates incremental development of industry up until 2030, contributing $1.7B to the economy and 2,800 jobs nationally. The Queensland Government's investments are taking us closer to making that a reality.

c)

Progress on renewable hydrogen projects globally has been adversely affected by the impact of COVID-19 on global manufacturing and international supply chains.

Despite these challenges, Queensland projects at all scales are progressing into production or undertaking the necessary planning, development assessment or detailed feasibility studies, which will see a diverse range of projects progressing over the next 1-2 years.

It should be noted that the 2019 funding round only provided for reimbursement of eligible costs, ensuring project proponents' capital expenditure must occur first. This is a standard approach to managing financial support provided by the government to any industry.

As with the first funding round, prioritising projects that are well developed and able to quickly deliver investment and jobs outcomes is expected to be one of the criteria used in assessment of projects.

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 10
Asked on 4 December 2020

THE TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI) —

QUESTION

With reference to page 3 of the Department of Energy and Public Works Service Delivery Statement, will the Minister update the committee on the roll out of remote community solutions and how this is helping to lower their carbon footprint?

ANSWER

Decarbonising Remote Communities is a $3.6 million investment under the Government's Jobs and Regional Growth Fund. The program is delivering renewable energy solutions to the remote Indigenous communities of Doomadgee, Pormpuraaw, Mapoon and the Northern Peninsula Area.

The program is being delivered in partnership with Energy Queensland and the local communities and is seeing the delivery of a range of renewable energy solutions which are helping to reduce reliance on traditional diesel generation. The projects are also designed to provide valuable learnings for how renewable energy can be effectively integrated into remote electricity networks as we move towards a cleaner energy future.

In Doomadgee, the program delivered 15 local jobs and has successfully installed a 304 kilowatt ground mounted solar farm and 105 kilowatts of rooftop solar on council owned buildings. The $650,000 investment into the Doomadgee community is reducing diesel consumption by around 115,000 litres per year, reducing carbon emissions by around 410 tonnes a year and delivering electricity bill savings for the Doomadgee Council of around $30,000 each year. That's money that is now staying in the community.

Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council will save around $40,000 annually on their power bills thanks to the recent installation of 210 kilowatts of solar on eight council buildings.

In Mapoon, the program has supported the delivery of upgrades to the local electricity grid which will enable the connection of more renewables in the 2021 dry season. This will include new solar and battery storage on council owned buildings including communications capabilities that allow the renewables to work with the existing local power station and support the grid. The system design for these communities is currently being finalised by Energy Queensland and a supplier is expected to be appointed by the end of the year.

And finally, in the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council detailed planning is being finalised to deliver solar on around 13 council owned sites in communities like Bamaga, Umagico, New Mapoon, Sensia and Injinoo. The system design for these communities is currently being finalised and a supplier is expected to be appointed by the end of the year with installation to occur the during the 2021 dry season.

There is no one size fits all approach in these remote communities and each one requires a tailored solution based on the unique local circumstances to do with the power network, land and rooftop availability, access into community and local engagement. Strict COVID-19 related access restrictions to remote communities this year have also proven a challenge to ensure that we delivered these projects in a way which kept the communities safe.

This program can provide a blueprint for broader decarbonisation of remote communities and how they can help deliver upon our commitment to our 50% renewable energy target by 2030.

Following completion of installations in all communities an evaluation of the program will be undertaken, including what barriers exist to delivering renewables in remote communities and how they can be overcome, what business model and technological learnings can be applied to other communities and importantly how opportunities for local employment and involvement can be maximised.

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 10
Asked on 4 December 2020

THE TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI) —

QUESTION

With reference to page 2 of the SDS, will the Minister advise for the 2019-20 actual financial year and 2020-21 budgeted financial year (in table format by individual financial year) (a) the headcount number of contractors and labour hire staff in the department and Energy Queensland, (b) all expenses associated with contractors and labour hire staff in the department and Energy Queensland and (c) headcount number of staff seconded to the department from any other State Government entity?

ANSWER

Department	2019-2020 Actuals at 30 June 2020	2020-21 Budget
Headcount of number of contractors and labour hire staff (1.)	424	Note 1.
All expenses associated with contractors and labour hire staff	$37.8M	$38.6M
Headcount of number of staff seconded to the department from any other State Government Entity (2.)	4	n/a

Notes:

1. The actual headcount number of contractors and labour hire staff as at 31 October 2020 is 399. No specific headcount number is budgeted for 30 June 2021 given the flexible nature of this resourcing measure.
2. Staff are generally seconded from other agencies to meet emerging, temporary staffing needs with costs met from within existing budgets.

Energy Queensland	2019-2020 Actuals at 30 June 2020	2020-21 Budget
Headcount of number of contractors and labour hire staff (1.)	376	Note 1.
All expenses associated with contractors and labour hire staff	$65.4M	$75M
Headcount of number of staff seconded to the department from any other State Government Entity	0	0

1. The actual headcount number of contractors and labour hire staff as at 31 October 2020 is 389. No specific headcount number is budgeted for 30 June 2021 given the flexible nature of this resourcing measure.