




Speech By
Hon. Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

Record of Proceedings, 19 February 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Natural Resource Management

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (2.20 pm): As Queenslanders, we know that the best way to protect our natural environment is to protect our natural assets. Whether it is Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville or Alligator Creek, nowhere else on earth boasts the natural wonders of this beautiful state. That is why the Crisafulli government is taking action to protect Queensland's environment by delivering a major boost to protect our natural assets for our children, our grandchildren and future generations. That is why we are partnering with Natural Resource Management Regions Queensland to deliver a \$117.84 million funding boost. It means more money where it is needed for on-ground land, water and biodiversity programs across our state over the next four years. The package we have delivered is about taking real action to protect our environment, working with local experts to deliver the best outcomes and supporting landholders in regional Queensland.

Unlike those opposite, we are a government that honours its election commitments so it is important to point out that the \$117.84 million funding boost to NRM Regions Queensland was delivered within the Crisafulli government's first 100 days. We have wasted no time delivering this important funding package, just as we said we would. We are walking the walk to showcase our commitment, working with the experts on the ground to get the best outcomes for Queensland's environment and economy.

We are working with the sector and the experts to ensure the best available science is used to protect Queensland's natural landscapes. Landowners know all too well that Queensland is a state of extreme droughts, floods and increasing threats, and the Crisafulli government is committed to protecting our natural assets for generations to come. This funding will support the vital work undertaken by our NRM groups by controlling invasive species, improving grazing land management, restoring high-priority habitats, improving water quality and more.

Our commitment to supporting NRM groups stands in clear contrast to those opposite. The former Labor government left our NRM groups high and dry, with no meaningful funding. We know that those opposite do not support practical environmental programs that benefit regional Queensland. That is why Queenslanders sent those opposite a very clear message back in October. It is why places such as Rockhampton, Mackay and Townsville rejected Labor's failed approach and backed the LNP's plan for a fresh start for Queensland. They know that the Crisafulli government backs our regions and delivers on our promises. They trusted us to back our natural resource management groups and we have.

I am excited about the opportunity to partner with NRM Regions Queensland on this strategic investment that supports landholders across our state. I look forward to updating the House on some of the new projects to be funded under that partnership in the months to come.