

**Question on Notice
No. 815
Asked on 17 August 2004**

QUESTION:

MR RICKUSS asked the Minister for the Environment (Mr Mickel)—

With reference to Queensland's protected area estate—

- (1) What is the current size of the total protected area estate and what is the projected size of the estate by the end of 2005?
- (2) What is the current size of Queensland's total State marine park area and what is the expected size by the end of 2005?

ANSWER:

- (1) As at 30 June 2004, the current size of the Protected Area Estate is approximately 7,141,933 hectares comprising National Park (Scientific), National Park, National Park (Recovery), Conservation Park and Resources Reserves.

The EPA also manages approximately 872,866 hectares of Forest Reserves and approximately 148,462 hectares of Nature Refuges totaling 1,021,328 hectares; approximately 3,145,756 hectares of State Forests and approximately 262,497 hectares of Timber Reserves, totaling about 3,408,253 hectares; 36,565 hectares of Forest Entitlement Areas under the *Forestry Act 1959* and approximately 10,045 hectares of various Reserves under the *Land Act 1994*.

Forest Reserves that total about 872,866 hectares will progressively be converted to a tenure under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* e.g. National Park, National Park (Recovery), Conservation Park and Resources Reserves. This is an ongoing program.

Therefore, it is not possible to predict the exact size of the Protected Area Estate in 2005.

- (2) The current size of Queensland's total State marine park area is:

Cairns Marine Park	700,149
Hervey Bay Marine Park	197,759
Mackay/Capricorn Marine Park	3,324,967
Moreton Bay Marine Park	343,788
Townsville/Whitsunday Marine Park	638,580
Trinity Inlet/Marlin Coast Marine Park	38,692
Woongarra Marine Park	10,706
Total Hectares	5,254,641

The expected size of the State marine park area by the end of 2005 is:

Marine Park	Area (hectares)	Comments
Great Sandy Marine Park ¹ (Proposed – underway)	590,457	Additional 381,991.65 hectares
Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park ² (Proposed – underway)	6,411,022	Additional 1,708,634 hectares
HMAS Brisbane (Proposed – not underway)	Unknown	Commitment given to declare
Moreton Bay Marine Park	343,788	Existing area
Total area	7,345,267	Additional 2,090,625.65 hectares

Some of these areas are currently subject to government and community consultation, and as such their eventual sizes and declaration dates may vary.

¹ This area amalgamates and replaces the [Hervey Bay Marine Park](#) and [Woongarra Marine Park](#) with the addition of some new areas.

² This area amalgamates and replaces the [Cairns Marine Park](#), [Mackay/Capricorn Marine Park](#), [Townsville/Whitsunday Marine Park](#), [Trinity Inlet/Marlin Coast Marine Park](#) with the addition of some new areas.