

Question on Notice
No. 428
Asked on Thursday, 24 March 2005

MR RICKUSS asked the Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women (MS DESLEY BOYLE)–

QUESTION:

With reference to budgeted and approved maintenance projects for each department, agency and portfolio entity administered by her–

- (1) What maintenance projects are running behind schedule or have not been commenced or completed to date (reported separately according to name and location)?
- (2) For each of the projects listed in (1), what are the amounts expended to date and what level of expenditure is still budgeted to complete each project?
- (3) For each of the projects listed in (1), what are the revised completion dates and the corresponding reasons why?

ANSWER:

With respect to the **Environmental Protection Agency:**

The infrastructure maintenance budget for parks is focused on several categories of assets including recreational infrastructure, management infrastructure, roads, walking tracks, fencing and ranger housing.

Progress to date is on target for most projects; however, a few projects are marginally behind schedule due to unforeseen circumstances, namely weather conditions or poor response from contractors to tender for the projects. It is expected that most delays to projects will be resolved to enable completion by June 2005.

The financial system does not enable identification of expenditure to date against specific projects as a number of projects in each District are managed from one cost centre. Overall, the maintenance budget allocation for QPWS is ahead of forecast expenditure by 4% at the end of March 2005.

Specific projects that are presently behind schedule are:

- Keating's Lagoon Boardwalk in Cape York Dry Tropics District (budget of \$4,500) is partly inundated by water and due to its location in estuarine crocodile habitat the project was delayed until waters receded. The project is expected to be completed by June 2005.
- Jardine River National Park management infrastructure maintenance (budget of \$26,000). Project completion is dependent on the contractor's schedule and dry weather access to the park. The completion date is expected to remain as June 2005.

- Bladensburg National Park tender for maintenance works (budget of \$20,000) has closed and an assessment is underway. The project will be completed by June 2005.
- The ranger housing project has had some difficulty in obtaining contractors to complete scheduled works with the following projects being closely monitored to ensure on time completion:
 - (a) Welford National Park (budget of \$52,000) - cultural heritage issues have now been resolved enabling the project to be completed by June 2005; and
 - (b) Eungella National Park (budget of \$35,000) - design works have now been completed and contractors will be engaged to complete the project this financial year.
- Savanna District road maintenance projects (budget of \$114,000) have had no expenditure to date due to unavailability of contractors and difficulties commencing work during the wet season. The projects are expected to be completed by June 2005.
- Tablelands South walking track maintenance has had no expenditure to date. However, work commenced on 11 April 2005. The delay was due to accessing contractors and wet season conditions. The expected completion date is June 2005.

Three projects have been deferred until next financial year:

- Lookout maintenance project at Bunya Mountains National Park (budget of \$17,000). The project will not proceed this financial year due to the unavailability of suitably qualified tradespersons.
- Rokeby Ranger Station residence (budget of \$20,000) has been postponed pending site assessment.
- The Carnarvon Gorge National Park walking track project at Wards Canyon (budget of \$5,000) will be completed early in the new financial year.