

**Question on Notice
No. 1372
Asked on 1 November 2006**

QUESTION:

MRS MENKENS asked the Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism (Ms Nelson-Carr)—

With reference to properties acquired by departments and agencies within her portfolio during 2005-06—

- (1) Will she provide a list of which properties were acquired and the individual cost (reported separately)?
- (2) What is the cost of maintaining these properties?
- (3) Who acted as the agent or legal advisor in respect of the purchase?

ANSWER:

- (1) Details of individual property purchases are considered to be commercial-in-confidence, and in order to respect the privacy of the people who have sold land to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), I will provide an overall summary.

In 2005-06, the EPA purchased a total of 56 properties throughout Queensland, focusing on the Cape York Peninsula and Daintree regions. The total expenditure for these purchases was \$4,193,024.

- (2) The cost of managing new areas of National Park depends upon the individual circumstances of each property. Where an area is purchased to consolidate an existing National Park, this may improve the management boundaries and/or result in a management benefit such as a better firebreak. In these circumstances there is usually no increased management cost, and in some cases there is actually a saving or improvement in efficiency.

Where an area is purchased for a new National Park, the usual purchase arrangements include a transition period for the owner to muster the stock on the property and relocate in a fashion that results in minimum disruption to the property management regime. This also gives the EPA a period to plan for the management of the area, including planning for the financial requirements of the new Park.

- (3) Once again this depends upon the individual circumstances of each property. In some cases the agent or legal representative representing the State is the Department of Natural Resources and Water; in some cases Crown Law; and in some cases a consultant or contractor.