

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1555

asked on Thursday, 30 November 2006

MR HOPPER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER AND MINISTER ASSISTING THE PREMIER IN NORTH QUEENSLAND (MR WALLACE)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the funding provided to the Queensland Conservation Council to run workshops throughout Queensland on the subject of weed management—

- (1) Is he aware that in eight months the Council has held only one workshop at an alternative lifestyle venue on the Sunshine Coast Hinterland?
- (2) How much money was given to the Queensland Conservation Council and why has a statewide program of workshops on broad acre weed not yet been delivered?

ANSWER:

(1) The Queensland Conservation Council (QCC) was contracted by the Department of Natural Resources and Water to develop an integrated weed and vegetation management project, targeting key audiences. The project's focus includes identifying practical techniques for achieving effective weed and vegetation management, developing a training and communication package and taking the program through a series of organised meetings and workshops, to regional rural stakeholders, local government officers and other interested parties. The intent of the program is to promote solutions through existing networks so that those networks can on-promote the issues, materials and programs.

Therefore the program is not only about delivering workshops.

Since being engaged for this work, the QCC has held meetings with a wide variety of stakeholder groups including, for example, the Weeds CRC, AgForce, QFF and Natural Resource Management bodies, to promote and develop integrated weed and vegetation management approaches. The work culminated in a pilot workshop held in November 2006 at Conondale that attracted some 50 participants representing Landcare, SEQ Catchments, AgForce, local governments, and community weed and conservation groups. Following that workshop, the QCC is preparing a training module that, as was the intent of the project, will be available to existing networks to promote effective weed and

vegetation management across sectors. It is expected that the training module could be utilised by NRM bodies, Agforward (the AgForce training arm), conservation and other community groups once it is available on the NRW website.

The QCC is also finalising a guide to weed management, to be posted on its website and promoted through its networks, to support that training. The information that they have prepared will also be utilised in a *Landholders Guide to preparing a weed management application under the Vegetation Management Act 1999*, due to be released by the Department in 2007.

(2) The QCC has received three payments to date, totalling \$80,000 for this work. As previously mentioned, the QCC is currently developing a training module based on the pilot workshop. This will be made available to a range of organisations to assist with delivering weed and vegetation management workshops.

The QCC project is one of a small number of partnership projects aimed at creating a better understanding of what landholders can do under the VMA. These partnerships are aimed at giving the tools to landholders for best management practices on their land and an awareness of what they can do.