

**Question on Notice
No. 620
Asked on 21 April 2006**

QUESTION:

MS LEE LONG asked the Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women (Ms Boyle)—

With reference to the significant number of state-owned trees which have fallen over many kilometers of boundary fence lines particularly in Eacham and Herberton Shires of my electorate and which mainly keep dairy and beef cattle confined—

What action is her department taking to expedite the clearing of the trees off these fence lines and effecting repairs to them?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) is offering grants of \$1,000 to \$10,000 to neighbours of national parks and State forests to help with removal of debris after Cyclone Larry.

I met with several Palmerston landholders the week after the cyclone to discuss assistance for removing vegetation from boundary fences, roads and firebreaks.

The damage from this disaster is extensive, and the Queensland Government is keen to assist neighbours in these exceptional circumstances.

The QPWS has set aside \$100,000 in extraordinary circumstance assistance funds to help its neighbours — those who share common boundaries with reserves managed by the QPWS.

These landholders can apply for grants of \$1,000 to \$10,000.

QPWS officers are actively engaging landholders in the cyclone affected area regarding fences, fire breaks and feral animal control measures, and have developed a number of positive solutions that are mutually beneficial to the management of parks and neighbouring landholders.

In addition, significant funding has been made available by the State Government to provide employment opportunities for people whose livelihoods were affected by Cyclone Larry. This is expected to provide approximately 100 jobs and could include assistance in clearing boundary lines and fire breaks.