

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**No. 986**  
**Asked on Tuesday, 6 June 2006**

**MRS PRATT** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR MULHERIN)-

**QUESTION:**

- (1) How many heritage listed properties that the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is responsible for have they contributed funding to in the past three years and what was the monetary value of that support to each?
- (2) What was the monetary value of funds spent on the maintenance and upkeep of the heritage listed Jimna Fire Tower which is the responsibility of the DPI for the last three years?
- (3) How many other heritage listed items whose maintenance is the responsibility of DPI exist and what is the monetary value of funds spent on each for the last three years listed individually?

**ANSWER:**

- (1) There are no heritage listed properties for the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.

In regard to the former DPI Forestry, now Forestry Plantations Queensland, there are two (2) heritage listed properties on the Queensland Heritage Register, those being an arboretum at Pechey near Crows Nest and the Jimna Fire Tower. These assets were transferred to Forestry Plantations Queensland with the creation of that business entity on 1 May 2006.

With regard to the Jimna Fire tower, I am advised that an application has been lodged by Forestry Plantations Queensland to the Queensland Heritage Council to have the tower dismantled and removed. The application was made on the basis of forensic engineering reports that the tower is structurally unsound and poses a public safety hazard due to its proximity to the Kilcoy-Murgon road.

The independent engineer has recommended that the tower be dismantled as the extent of degradation is such that there are no economic remedial measures able to be undertaken that would allow the tower to be certified as compliant to relevant Australian structural engineering standards. Most recent advice from the independent engineer is that the estimated cost of a replacement tower, built to the same configuration as the original, including new foundations to replace the existing, which do not meet code requirements, would be in excess of \$600,000.

- (2) I am advised that approximately \$9,500 has been expended during the last three years on unplanned maintenance and upkeep of the Jimna Fire Tower of which about \$7,500 has been provided by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. This expenditure was for intermittent repairs as necessary in response

to visitor impact, vandalism and general wear and tear, particularly with reference to the stairway system.

However, it needs to be borne in mind that there has been, since December 2004, no expenditure on maintenance to the tower, subsequent to its being declared unsafe and uneconomic to repair by the independent engineer.

Up until that time, the maintenance regime for the tower included intermittent repairs as previously mentioned plus a major maintenance operation at about five to six yearly intervals. This last occurred in 2001 at a cost of approximately \$30,000.

Officers of DPI Forestry (now Forestry Plantations Queensland) held discussions with the Kilcoy Shire Council in March 2005 regarding the future of the tower. As a result of on-going dialogue with the Kilcoy Shire Council, officers from DPI Forestry and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service have agreed to give favourable consideration to any request from the Kilcoy Shire Council for a lease for roadside parks purposes on the current tower site. DPI Forestry also agreed at that time, to either seek to preserve the existing cabin or to construct a replica (at ground level) to facilitate conservation of the heritage value of the Jimna fire tower.

- (3) In relation to the arboretum at Pechey, I am advised that in 2002, the then DPI Forestry expended in excess of \$7,500 on maintenance (weed control) and that there has been some further maintenance carried out since that time by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.