

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 283

asked on Tuesday, 6 March 2007

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the land that is controlled and managed by the Department of Natural Resources and Water—

- (1) What is the total area of land controlled and managed by the Department broken down by tenure?
- (2) What is the total expenditure on pest, weeds and fire management itemised by tenure and type?
- (3) What is the total income derived from commercial activities for the 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 including timber sales, rents received and other income sources itemised by source?

ANSWER:

- (1) The table below shows the breakdown of tenure type for the leases, licences and permits issued and administered under the *Land Act 1994*. The Department of Natural Resources and Water is also responsible for the administration of approximately 790,800 hectares of unallocated state land or reserves where there are no trustees or where the Department is the trustee.

Non Freeholding Tenures:

Lease type	Area (Ha)
GHPL – Grazing Homestead Perpetual Lease	20,755,321
NCL – Non Competitive Lease	17,401
OL – Occupation License	708,360
PH – Pastoral Holding	83,492,082
PO - Permit to Occupy	657,118
PPL – Perpetual Lease	131,156
SL – Special Lease	2,337,008
TL – Term Lease	4,573,000
RL Road Licence	30,438
Grand Total	112,701,884

Freeholding Leases:

Tenure Type	Area (Ha)
AF - Agricultural Farm	193,800
APF - Auction Purchase Freehold	1,000
APL - Auction Perpetual Lease	81

APLC - Converted Perpetual Town, Suburban, Country Lease	3
FL - Freeholding Lease	11,655
GHFL - Grazing Homestead Freehold Lease	6,412,453
NCLC – Converted Non-competitive Lease	144
PLS - Perpetual Lease Selection	275,633
SLPF – Special Lease Purchase Freehold	29,381
Grand Total	6,924,150

- (2) Under the *Land Act 1994*, lessees, licensees, permittees and trustees of reserves have a duty of care responsibility for the land that they manage.

Under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* and the *Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990* lessees, licensees, permittees and trustees are specifically charged with the responsibility to manage pest and fire, on the land over which they hold tenure.

Under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* and the *Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990*, the Department of Natural Resources and Water has responsibility for the management of fire and pest, on unallocated state land and reserves without trustees.

Unlike the period when the Honourable Member was the Minister for Natural Resources there was no bush fire or pest management program in place for unallocated state land. Responses to issues were on an ad hoc basis, mainly arising from complaints. Under this Government the Department's State Land Asset Management (SLAM) group has an annual budget (2006/07) of \$3.3 million for management of unallocated State land, reserves where the Department is trustee, or for those reserves where there are no trustees. \$2.5 million of this budget is used for bushfire management.

The budget for fire protection on commercial native forest areas on State Forests for 2006/07 is \$845,000. This amount is separate from the SLAM budget of \$2.5 million.

- (3) Rentals from all leases, licences and permits under the *Land Act 1994* for 2003/04 totalled \$38.9 million. For 2004/05 the total was \$38.3 million, and for 2005/06 the total was \$45.8 million. Of this amount, \$10.6 million was received from rural rents. For the 2005/06 period and again this year, there has been a freeze on rural rentals (grazing and intensive primary production).

For 2005/06, the Department of Natural Resources and Water derived the following income from its commercial activities under the *Forestry Act 1959* following the Machinery of Government change that transferred the Forest Products unit from the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries to the Department of Natural Resources and Water on 1 April 2006: Timber Sales of \$4.127 million; Quarry Material Sales of \$1.303 million; Rents Received of \$0.007 million; and Other Income of \$0.216 million. These amounts are income for the period 1 April to 30 June 2006 only.

