

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 140**  
**Asked on Thursday 14 February 2008**

QUESTION:

**MRS CUNNINGHAM** asked the Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation (Mr McNamara) — With reference to the Health and Air Quality study being undertaken in Gladstone—

(1) What is the total budget for this study?

(2) What percentage has been contributed by the Environmental Protection Agency and what percentage by Queensland Health (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

The Clean and Healthy Air for Gladstone Project is being undertaken in consultation with the community and industry in the Gladstone area. Detailed proposals for an enhanced ambient air quality monitoring program and a community health survey have been developed. These plans will undergo an independent review process and discussion with the community and industry reference groups before they are finalised.

The enhanced ambient air quality monitoring program and the community health survey represent a significant proportion of the anticipated expenditure on the project, and so the current budget can only be considered provisional until these plans are finalised.

The total investment by the Environmental Protection Agency over the two year life of the project is anticipated to exceed \$2.5 million. This figure includes \$895,000 for staff time. As part of the EPA's enhanced compliance program the EPA has created three additional positions based in Gladstone to work specifically on the scientific and consultative aspects of this project.

The EPA is investing more than of \$1 million in capital expenditure to establish an enhanced network of air quality monitoring stations. These stations will be state of the art, and allow the EPA to test for a broad spectrum of chemicals. The chemicals to be investigated are being agreed with the Community and Industry Reference Groups, and will link directly to the health effects to be investigated through the community health survey. The EPA project budget also includes costs of commissioning and operating the monitoring network.

Queensland Health has allocated \$260,000 to meet the costs of Queensland Health staff (Public Health Physician, Epidemiologist and Project Officer), the independent Health Reviewer and a subject matter expert, travel expenses and other basic project operating costs.

In addition, Queensland Health will meet the costs of the following planned project activities:

- laboratory services and analysis of samples for the monitoring program;
- telephone based community health survey; and
- assistance with the project by other Queensland Health staff as required.

As the technical aspects of the monitoring program and the community health survey are still being finalised, it is not possible to provide a firm estimate of the costs that will be incurred by Queensland Health.

Consequently, it is not possible to provide the percentages contributed by each agency.