

**Question on Notice
No. 1458
Asked on Thursday, 9 October 2008**

QUESTION:

MS MALE asked the Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation (Mr McNamara) –

(1) Will he advise what his department is doing to promote koala conservation?

(2) Will he provide details of any other initiatives that are being implemented to maximise the protection of koalas?

ANSWER:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administers the *Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2006 and Management Program 2006 - 2016* (the Koala Plan), which is the Queensland government's principal legislative and management response to the conservation of the koala. The EPA undertakes activities under the Koala Plan in three primary areas, namely the assessment of developments in mapped koala habitat areas, the mapping of new koala habitat areas in partnership with South East Queensland local governments, and the delivery of community education concerning koala conservation.

Since commencement of the Koala Plan in October 2006, the EPA has:

- received 73 development applications for assessment and finalised 46 of those applications;
- granted funding of almost \$188,000 to three local government syndicates to undertake survey and mapping of new koala habitat areas; and
- made 131 formal community presentations in South-East Queensland attended by more than 8,000 people, and hosted more than 90,000 visitors to the Daisy Hill Koala Centre.

On 5 August 2008, the Premier and I issued a joint media release to indicate the government's reaction to the critical koala population decline evident from koala population monitoring to both the north and south of Brisbane. Subsequently, the Premier established a Koala Taskforce (the Taskforce) to develop proposals to strengthen the Koala Plan. The government has received the Taskforce report and, in considering the Taskforce recommendations, asked for additional information. A government working group made up of the EPA, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the Department of Infrastructure and Planning and the Department of Natural Resources and Water is collating information. The government will reconsider the Taskforce recommendations, with the benefit of the further information in the near future.