

Question on Notice
No. 1892
Asked on Thursday 27 November 2008

MR CRIPPS asked the Premier (MS BLIGH) -

QUESTION:

With reference to her media release of 28 October 2008 titled 'Premier warns of chemical danger to the Great Barrier Reef', and the statement that her government has now committed \$175m over five years to tackle the problem -

Will she list each measure that is covered under the \$175m detailing separately:

- (a) the title of the program,
- (b) funding committed,
- (c) how long the program has been running or if it is a new measure,
- (d) its aims and how its success will be measured, and
- (e) consultation with industry.

ANSWER:

The Reef Water Quality Protection Plan ('Reef Plan') is a joint initiative of the Queensland and Australian Governments that was released in October 2003. The aim of the Reef Plan is to halt and reverse the decline in water quality entering the Reef within ten years.

Since the release of the Reef Plan the Queensland Government has invested about \$25M annually into natural resource management in Reef catchments.

My Government is currently negotiating an update to the Reef Plan with the Australian Government. An annual commitment of \$25M will be maintained by the Queensland Government.

Following the recent Reef Summit, I announced that an additional \$10M a year will also be committed over the next five years to support the Reef Regulatory package. The regulatory package is a new initiative which aims to phase out clearly unacceptable farm management practices within a reasonable timeframe from Reef catchments and to increase the number of primary producers in priority Reef catchments who have implemented accredited property management plans to ensure measurable water quality benefits are achieved.

Consultation with all stakeholders including industry on the regulatory package is currently being conducted through public meetings in the relevant Reef catchments and through a Reef Protection Stakeholder Committee chaired by the Minister for Sustainability, Innovation and Climate Change which reports to me. This consultation process and the final form of the regulatory framework will inform decisions on how this funding is to be spent.