

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 90**  
**Asked on Thursday, 14 February 2008**

QUESTION:

**MS CROFT** asked the Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation (Mr McNamara) — Will he advise what progress is being made in the statewide heritage review?

ANSWER:

The review of how heritage is managed in Queensland has had three main planks: the reconsideration of the legislative framework, a comprehensive survey of Queensland's cultural heritage and a \$5 million, three-year heritage grants program, *Living Buildings and Places*.

The legislative review is now complete with the passing of the *Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2007* in August last year. These amendments will commence on 31 March 2008 and are designed to ensure that places nominated to the Heritage Register and applications for development of registered places are dealt with in a transparent and timely manner. The amendments also recognise local heritage with the provision for local government to manage local heritage places by keeping local heritage registers.

Complementing the changes to the legislation is the statewide historical heritage survey which is designed to systematically identify Queensland's important heritage places. This identification will provide certainty for the community, owners, developers and local government because it will be clear which places are of state heritage importance and which are important at a local level.

This survey will receive \$2.7 million of funding over a five-year period culminating in 2010. The survey is being carried out by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) heritage staff supplemented with additional staff specifically engaged for the life of the project. The survey is being undertaken by dividing Queensland geographically into 17 regions based around regional centres which reflect the historical development of Queensland. Heritage places are then identified within these survey regions using the historical themes that shaped these regions and gave them their character, for example the sugar and mining industries. Presently there are three separate survey teams working in southern, central and northern Queensland. There is also a small team identifying important historical archaeological places throughout the State and a survey is being undertaken to assess places associated with World War II in North Queensland.

The statewide survey commenced with planning and preparatory work and a pilot survey in the Mackay Whitsunday Region. The pilot survey was completed at the end of last year and covered nine local government areas.

Out of this survey approximately 60 places have been identified as being of state heritage significance.

At the end of 2007 a survey was also completed in the North Coast region of South-east Queensland. This survey covered the local government areas of Caboolture, Caloundra, Kilcoy, Maroochydore, Noosa, Pine Rivers and Redcliffe. Starting with an inventory of approximately 1,700 places, the survey team will be recommending 34 places to the Heritage Council as being of State level heritage significance. These places tell the story of the North Coast through the development of its major industries including the timber, tourism and agriculture.

In Far North Queensland a survey is underway in the region around Cairns from Cardwell to Douglas Shires and west to Mareeba.

Two new surveys have commenced in 2008 - one in central Queensland based around Rockhampton and another in the Wide Bay Burnett region.

Gold Coast has been identified for inclusion as an area for later survey.

While the statewide survey identifies heritage places, it is the *Living Buildings and Places* grants program that delivers practical support and incentives to heritage owners. Approximately \$2.6 million was granted for conservation projects in the first round and the second round closed on 28 February 2008. What this program does is give recognition and help to the owners of heritage places, for it is these owners who care for and preserve our heritage for the community.

Through the review of the legislation, the statewide survey and the grants program, the Government is continuing its commitment to Queensland's heritage. While as a State we are experiencing unprecedented growth and development, it is important to get the balance right so that our heritage places, the places that make Queensland unique, are preserved for the future.