

QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 1375
Asked on 6 October 2009

MR HOPPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Rural and Regional Queensland (MR MULHERIN)–

QUESTION:

Will the Minister list all Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries assets that are being considered for sale during the term of the present parliament, their current purpose and locations, and the likely proceeds to be realised from the sales?

ANSWER:

I am committed to ensuring that all Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries assets are fit-for-purpose and provide Queensland's primary industries with value-for-money.

The department has a clear plan to modernise and renew its current sites. To date, this has led to in excess of \$400 million in new infrastructure to support Queensland primary industries. This is an unprecedented level of investment and includes:

- \$300M Boggo Road Ecosciences Precinct
- \$70M Coopers Plains Health and Food Sciences Precinct
- \$8.6M Queensland Crop Development Centre
- \$5M Bribie Island Research Centre
- \$33M Centre for Advanced Animal Sciences (CAAS)
- \$8M Tropical applied research and development (R&D) and training precinct at Mareeba
- \$13M New Tropical Biosecurity Laboratory located in Townsville
- \$16.5M 2020 Beef strategy that includes the acquisition of a major Beef R&D Property and upgrades department, Australian Agricultural College Corporation (AACC) and AgForce infrastructure
- \$3M investment into a consolidated Dairy Research facility in partnership with the University of Queensland at the Gatton Campus.

In terms of assets being considered for sale, the Department has announced the closure of the following sites:

- Beef 2020
 - Brigalow research station (beef)
 - Toorak research station (beef)
 - Swans lagoon research station (beef and sugar)
- Tablelands reform
 - Most of Kairi research station (dairy and broad acre)
 - Southedge research station (horticulture)
- KBRB (Knowledge Based Research Business project)
 - Hamilton laboratories (food)
 - Yeerongpilly (animal science)
 - Sherwood (biosecurity)
 - Indooroopilly (multiple industries)
- University partnership

- Mutdapilly (dairy)
- Oonoonba, Townsville (multiple industries).

All these locations are being replaced with modern fit-for-purpose sites.

My current focus is on strengthening R&D capacity and partnerships with the grains industry. In many cases there is over-emphasis on bricks and mortar and historical factors. As evidence of the need to change, some eighty percent (80%) of current grains research is now conducted in partnership with growers on their farms rather than old fashioned trials on research stations.

Further future disinvestment is anticipated to include:

- Leslie research centre
- Emerald research station
- Wellcamp field property
- Kingsthorpe field property
- Land assets associated with Biloela and Kingaroy research stations
- Roma research station.

The department and AgForce are currently working through these options and how to better develop the Queensland grains industry. Every dollar realised through any potential sale will be reinvested back into the Queensland grains industry.

I realise reform is challenging, but my commitment to Queensland primary industries is to tackle the important issues, the ones that will under-pin their future economic growth.

We are doing this to provide our scientists with modern R&D infrastructure so they can do their business of undertaking world-class science which is essential to support the economic development and future prosperity of Queensland primary industries.

This Government has a track record of working with industry to achieve renewal of our research infrastructure to grow industries over the next twenty (20) years.