

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1807

asked on Thursday, 12 November 2009

---

MS MALE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY (MS JONES)—

### QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline the new initiatives for koalas recently announced by the government and explain how they will provide more protection for koalas in the Pine Rivers area?

### ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is continuing to take active steps to halt the decline in south east Queensland koala populations particularly in the Pine Rivers area. The Department of Environment and Resource Management has been working closely with all relevant Government agencies to implement the Koala Crisis Response Strategy announced in December 2008.

It is anticipated that the SEQ Koala Conservation State Planning Regulatory Provisions will be in effect by the end of the year and the new State Planning Policy for koala conservation will come into effect early next year.

The State Planning Regulatory Provisions identifies the Pine Rivers area as one of the Priority Management Areas in south east Queensland placing further restrictions on development occurring in areas containing koala habitat.

While the new planning instruments are being developed, an immediate ban on koala bushland habitat clearing in designated areas has been announced to complement the interim measures already applying on State land until the new State Planning Regulatory Provisions are in place.

Earlier this month, I released the Government's latest package of reforms. This package includes:

- \$15 million focused on buying new habitat and rehabilitating existing habitat;
- compulsory acquisition powers for koala habitat outside the urban footprint;
- new planning laws for councils to minimise koala impacts when assessing development applications in key koala areas;
- new controls for councils to ban dogs in new developments in koala habitat; and
- new planning laws to allow land swaps in and outside the urban footprint for strategic koala habitat corridors.

More than 52,000 hectares of koala habitat for conservation as protected areas has been secured just this year. More recently, approximately 900 hectares of koala habitat in the Thornlands and southern Redland Bay area has been removed from the urban footprint in the South East Queensland Regional Plan.

In addition, exclusion fencing and other koala safety measures for all new main roads in koala habitat are being introduced and a model local law is also being developed to regulate dog control in koala habitat.

The Queensland Government is also setting up the Queensland Koala Fund to allow businesses, householders, local government and other organisations to contribute to the Koala Response Strategy.