

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**No. 604**  
**Asked on 25 March 2010**

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

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the sale of Northern Queensland's Department of Primary Industries assets, which has either taken place or is about to take place including the sale of the Kairi Research Station, the dairy herd from the Kairi Research Station and Southedge Research Station near Mareeba—

How much has been received to date for the sale of these assets and other Department of Primary Industries assets in northern Queensland?

**ANSWER:**

In 2008 I announced that Mareeba will become one of Australia's leading regional research, training and services hubs under a new \$8 million plan for the Atherton Tablelands.

These plans follow an independent review of research, development and extension, education and training needs for the Atherton Tablelands.

The final recommendations from the review were to:

- Build a fit for purpose facility in Peters Street, Mareeba, by December 2010
- Retain Walkamin Research Station (259 hectares)
- Relocate and incorporate the Australian Agricultural College Corporation Mareeba campus into the Peters Street hub
- Retain 24.5 hectares of Kairi Research Station
- Transition out of Southedge Research Station.

As part of the disinvestment of Kairi, the commercial dairy herd was sold to local producers. The net amount raised from the sale of the Atherton Tablelands Dairy Herd was \$520,640 after deducting the book value of the herd and the incidental costs of sale.

Planning is underway to sell Kairi and Southedge Research Stations with sales anticipated in 2011.

The revenue from the sales of the properties and the dairy herd is part of the reinvestment into the revitalisation of facilities on the Tablelands.

These revenues will be reinvested into the new purpose built "Agribusiness Client and Training Service Centre" at Peters Street, Mareeba and the consolidation of Research and Development onto one site at Walkamin Research Station with support from the retention of some 24.5 hectares at Kairi Research Station.