

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 893

asked on Thursday, 26 May 2011

MR ELMES ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (MS JONES)—

QUESTION:

As round two of the koala nature refuge program offers financial assistance to property owners with land in koala mapped areas to rehabilitate that land for koala habitat, does the government have plans to protect adjoining parcels of land adjacent to the protected site from forest practice and from any other form of authorised but nonetheless destructive clearing?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is committed to protecting and rehabilitating areas of bushland koala habitat.

The best way to ensure that koala habitat is protected is to provide a legislative framework that prevents broad scale tree clearing such as the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

I am encouraged that the tenor of your question suggests that you now support such a framework notwithstanding the fact that your party voted against it.

In addition to these regulatory responses the Queensland Government has commenced a \$43 million, five year habitat protection and rehabilitation program, aimed at increasing the area of mature and actively regenerating koala habitat in south east Queensland by 2020.

I congratulate you on your commitment to conservation and opposition to unregulated vegetation clearing.