

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 133

asked on Thursday, 6 March 2014

MR SHUTTLEWORTH ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS, RECREATION, SPORT AND RACING (MR DICKSON)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline the government's investments in national parks and recreation in the Ferny Grove Electorate and surrounding community and the benefits provided to those associated communities, in particular, outline what upgrades, projects and other works have been undertaken in the D'Aguilar National Park and nearby conservation parks since the change of government?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the Question.

The Newman Government has made significant investments in national parks and recreation infrastructure and programs in and around the Ferny Grove Electorate since March 2012, through funding to the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing's Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Sport and Recreation Services Divisions.

Parks around the Ferny Grove Electorate that are managed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service include the southern section of the 36,000 hectare D'Aguilar National Park, the Bunyaville Conservation Park and the Samford Conservation Park.

This Government is committed to opening up our parks and improving access and opportunities to our recreation areas. Master planning is now underway for the Walkabout Creek complex at The Gap in the adjacent Ashgrove electorate, and is envisioned to be the gateway to the D'Aguilar Range and south east Queensland national parks. This process has involved significant community consultation, to develop a framework for a range of potential recreational opportunities and ecotourism related developments at the site.

Several capital works projects have recently been completed in D'Aguilar National Park, including a \$398,000 project to construct two new toilet blocks at the popular Maiala day use area (completed in 2012) and \$21,000 for the removal of an old wire rope course (completed in 2013). Additional approved projects include a \$400,000 upgrade of the Jolly's lookout day use area (expected to be completed in July 2014), \$24,000 for the replacement of location/orientation signs to meet tenure change requirements and \$160,000 for the upgrade of the fire hydrant system at the South East Region headquarters of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (to be completed as part of the redevelopment of the Walkabout Creek complex).

Significant damage caused by ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald throughout the D'Aguilar National Park has been repaired. This includes boardwalks, handrails and washouts along the heavily used Greene's Falls and Rainforest Circuit walking tracks which were repaired following the event at a total cost of \$100,000. An important access road and firebreak within the National Park, Lawton Road was washed away in several sections, but has been reinstated at a cost of \$350,000.

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service continues the annual planned burn program to reduce fuel loads and risks to property, particularly where parks adjoin residential areas. Ten planned burn operations have been carried out in the southern section of D'Aguilar National Park and the Bunyaville and Samford Conservation Parks since March 2012.

Pest management has also been a priority, with notable projects including a \$50,000 invasive vine control project focussed on D'Aguilar National Park in 2013, and ongoing feral pig control programs in conjunction with Seqwater and Mt Glorious residents.

The D'Aguilar National Park has also hosted a range of track running, orienteering, rogaining, horse riding and mountain biking events, ranging from the large Oxfam trailwalker and Mini Kokoda Challenge events (1,600 and 300 participants respectively), to local club events. The network of tracks in the Bunyaville and Samford Conservation Parks are particularly popular with local mountain biking groups, and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service is also working with mountain biking groups, including the South East Queensland Trails Alliance, to maintain existing tracks and plan new ones.

Within the Ferny Grove Electorate, Sport and Recreation Services is also investing in sport and recreation infrastructure and participation opportunities.

These investments include the Newman Government's Election Commitment of \$160,000 to install lighting at the James Drysdale Reserve and Get in the Game initiative funding of \$117,531 from the *Get Playing* program to develop two infrastructure projects, \$47,453 from the *Get Going* program to support clubs with improving services for active members' involvement in sport and recreation and 133 vouchers redeemed at sport and recreation clubs for membership and participation fees to the value of \$18,606 under rounds 1 and 2 of the *Get Started* program.

Much of this investment has been aimed at increasing participation in sport and recreation and visitation to our national parks.