

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 550

asked on Tuesday, 14 July 2015

MR COSTIGAN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (DR MILES)——

QUESTION:

For each property or facility administered by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection will the Minister provide (a) the value of scheduled maintenance works for 2015-16, by facility, including a brief description of the works to be undertaken, and (b) the value of scheduled capital works for 2015-16, by facility, including a brief description of the works to be undertaken?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government believes that in a decentralised State like Queensland, Government building projects help deliver employment when and where it is most needed.

The 2015-16 State Budget, released on 14 July 2015 by the Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, the Honourable Curtis Pitt MP, includes an estimated \$10.1 billion spend on infrastructure across Queensland this financial year, supporting an estimated 27,500 direct jobs.

As the Treasurer outlined in his budget speech, this year's capital works budget is higher by nearly \$400 million, compared to the estimated actual spend last year.

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection utilises a range of buildings including office accommodation, depots and sheds; as well as animal enclosures associated with conservation activities. The vast majority of accommodation is leased and, in keeping with the lease provisions, the department incurs very limited expenditure on building maintenance, as the majority of maintenance costs are paid by the building owner. The department shares accommodation with other government departments at some locations and at these locations the host department takes responsibility for maintenance costs. Notwithstanding, there are some sites where maintenance costs have been incurred in the past and are expected to be incurred in 2015/16, as follows:

Site	Maintenance Work	Estimated cost 2015/16
173 Hume Street, Toowoomba	Statutory maintenance for safety equipment, in accordance with the lease.	\$900
400 George Street, Brisbane	Statutory maintenance for supplementary air conditioning, automatic doors and	\$24,167

	safety equipment, in accordance with lease agreement; as well as minor repairs to office environment.	
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For more details relating to these and other planned works, I refer the Honourable Member to the publicly available 2015-16 State Budget Papers, in particular Budget Paper No. 3 titled *Capital Statement* and to my department's Service Delivery Statement.

While I do not believe that it would be practicable, nor would it be reasonable, to divert the resources of my department to outline every single individual work in this answer as requested in the Member's question, if the Member has a specific question about work at a specific facility then I would be more than happy to seek the information.