

## Question on Notice

No. 763

Asked on 15 September 2015

**DR MCVEIGH** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON L ENOCH)—

With reference to page 4 of the Service Delivery Statement for the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation, will the Minister detail, (a) all projects within the department concerning the Great Barrier Reef, (b) the funding allocations for these projects (broken down by category), and (c) staffing allocations for each of these projects, broken down by position title, location and salary level?

ANSWER:

The Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation provides scientific services to a number of Queensland Government agencies to inform policy, legislation and service delivery decisions which affect the protection of the Great Barrier Reef.

The department works closely with the Office of the Great Barrier Reef on the coordination of monitoring and modelling activities to support the Government's commitment to protecting the Great Barrier Reef.

Importantly, actions to improve the water quality entering the Great Barrier Reef lagoon need to be underpinned by credible science in monitoring and modelling.

Scientists within the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation undertake water quality monitoring of pollutant loads during storm events, and develop and use catchment models. The Catchment Loads Program monitors water quality at 25 sites in 14 priority catchments, ranging from the Mary River in the south to the Normanby River in Cape York.

Remote sensing imagery is used to monitor landscape indicators such as ground cover and woody vegetation, and to identify the presence of gullies in grazing lands.

Scientists also model the impact on water quality of improvements in land management practices at the paddock and catchment scales. The modelling is used to calculate the effectiveness of current and alternative management practices that reduce pollutant loads.

The scientific projects undertaken by the department to protect the Great Barrier Reef fit within the following five categories of activity:

| Category  | Total funding | Staff (FTEs) |
|---|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Catchment loads monitoring of sediments, nutrients, and pesticides | \$2,091,056   | 14.25        |
| 2. Water quality modelling and decision support                       | \$467,966     | 4.15         |

|  |              |       |
|--|--------------|-------|
| 3. Landscape monitoring of indicators and processors | \$ 1,675,117 | 11.73 |
| 4. Monitoring of wetland extent and condition        | \$487,425    | 4.60  |
| 5. Reef science coordination and reporting.          | \$217,748    | 1.95  |

The department conducts these scientific activities through a range of funding sources, namely:

- base appropriations;
- joint or commissioned projects funded by Queensland government agencies (DEHP, DNRM); and
- joint or commissioned projects funded by the Australian Government, industry research and development corporations, or through the National Environmental Science Program (NESP).

The total co-investment by departmental base appropriations is planned to be \$2.67 million for confirmed projects underway in 2015-16. This includes essential computing infrastructure provision such as the High Performance Computing and high speed data transfer devices, as well as laboratory testing and analyses.

In relation to staffing allocations, the table provided includes the total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff in each category. However, the publication of position titles, locations and salary levels would compromise the confidentiality of departmental staff in relation to their employment.