

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 248

asked on Wednesday, 1 March 2017

---

**MR CRIPPS** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON DR S MILES)—

### QUESTION:

With reference to pages 7 and 61 of the Queensland State of the Environment 2015 report in relation to land-based run-off and the contribution of diffuse and point source pollution to water quality—

Will the Minister provide (a) data collected to account for the contribution of urban, commercial and industrial areas to land based run-off, (b) data collected to account for the contribution of urban, commercial and industrial point source and diffuse pollution and (c) the contribution of (a) and (b) relative to that of rural and agricultural land?

### ANSWER:

The State of the Environment Report 2015 (SoE2015) draws data from existing sources and to avoid duplication avoids republishing such data.

In response to questions (a) and (b) the data that underpins the Water Quality sub-theme findings under the SoE2015 Pollution theme are based on the water quality report cards published across Queensland by a mix of government and non-government organisations. These organisations prepare and publish independent and peer reviewed reports, including comprehensive water quality monitoring and modelling datasets, for both point source emissions (utilities, industry and commercial) and diffuse source emissions (urban and rural).

In relation to question (c), the contribution of pollution from urban areas compared to rural and agricultural land varies depending on the pollutant type and location. The pollutant types that are measured are sediments and nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen).

In South East Queensland, the urban/rural ratio for sediment emissions is 30:70 and the ratio for nutrient emissions is 52:48. These ratios are derived from the *Sharing the Load*, Mainstream Economics and Policy, December 2011 report. Emissions from nature conservation lands are not included.

In Great Barrier Reef catchments the urban/rural ratio for sediment emissions is 1:99 and for nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus) emissions is 4:96. Within rural areas the ratio between agricultural land and other rural land is 55:45 for sediment and 62:38 for nutrients. These ratios are derived from: *Modelling reductions of pollutant loads due to improved management practices in the Great Barrier Reef Catchments, Technical Report Volume 1*, Australian Government and Queensland Government, 2014.