

Question on Notice

No. 621

asked on Wednesday, 16 May 2018

MS M SCANLON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH) —

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the Queensland Government is supporting Koalas in the south east, particularly Koalas on the Gold Coast?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is delivering on its commitment to address the decline in koala populations in south east Queensland with the release of the Queensland Koala Expert Panel's final report titled *Queensland Koala Expert Panel: A new direction for the conservation of koalas in Queensland* and the Queensland Government response on 4 May 2018.

The Palaszczuk Government accepted all six of the Panel's recommendations and is committed to developing and implementing a new South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy within the next 12 months.

Koala conservation requires a collaborative effort across all stakeholders. The new strategy will deliver a multifaceted approach that combines the protection of koala habitat through the planning framework, together with actions to address the impact of other threats that are driving declines in populations.

It is clear that koala conservation is not just the responsibility of one level of government. A key component of the Panel's recommendations is enhanced partnerships with local governments to achieve koala conservation.

The City of Gold Coast Council and Gold Coast based wildlife conservation groups made significant contributions during the consultation phase of the Panel's review process. Ongoing collaboration between these groups and the Queensland Government will assist with the development of the Koala Conservation Strategy, as well as other policy reviews such as that relating to the translocation and release of rehabilitated koalas.