

## Question on Notice

No. 1569

Asked on Tuesday, 15 October 2019

**MR R KATTER** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the \$2.7m secured by the former Member for Dalrymple, to conduct a research and removal trial with the flying fox population based at Charters Towers—

Will the Minister advise how much of the \$900,000 earmarked specifically for on-the-ground activities to disperse, remove and relocate the flying foxes, has already been spent and where this money was spent?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

In 2016, the Queensland Government announced a \$2.7 million research program into little red flying-fox migration and behaviour, and trials of alternative flying-fox roost management measures.

Of this funding, \$900,000 was allocated over four years to a project led by the Department of Environment and Science (DES), to research and implement alternative roost management measures in Charters Towers. Due to the complex nature of the project, the program has been extended to 2019-20.

As at 31 October 2019, total expenditure of those funds was \$199,044, for activities including community engagement in partnership with Charters Towers Regional Council, on-ground trials and project management costs since 2016. This expenditure also included two rounds of a community grants scheme.

In 2019-20, funds have been allocated to be spent on: site improvement works at a potential alternative roost site; flying-fox dispersal activities; and community engagement. The department has been out to tender for on-ground works and is finalising the procurement processes. Works are anticipated to commence in the near future.