

Question on Notice

No. 1908

Asked on Wednesday, 27 November 2019

MR N DAMETTO 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 Minister's recent announcement of \$100,000 to address the problem flying fox roost in Mount Isa—

Will the Minister indicate how similar funding could be made available to the Hinchinbrook Shire Council to assist them with the relocation of the current flying fox roost in the Ingham CBD to an alternative site?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

The Department of Environment and Science (DES) has held preliminary discussions with Hinchinbrook Shire Council regarding the potential for a project to identify and develop an alternative flying-fox roost to the roost in the Ingham CBD. However, such a project is potentially complex and requires assessment by habitat experts to determine whether suitable alternative roost sites exist near Ingham, before consideration could be given to the feasibility of such a project.

Hinchinbrook Shire Council has an as-of-right authority under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* to conduct roost management activities at the Ingham roost without needing a permit from DES, provided its actions are consistent with the 'Code of Practice – Ecologically sustainable management of flying-foxes roosts'.

DES is also conducting a research project in collaboration with the CSIRO and Charters Towers Regional Council involving the identification and development of an alternative roost at Charters Towers. The findings from this project will be of benefit to other councils (such as Hinchinbrook Shire Council) looking to adopt alternative flying-fox roost management approaches in the future.