QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 336

asked on Tuesday, 26 March 2019

MR S KNUTH ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

With reference to improving the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef and River trusts providing cost-efficient and meaningful contributions—

Will the Minister commit to increasing funding to this valuable organisation to improve delivery?

ANSWER:

As advised in the response to Question on Notice 148 tabled on 28 March 2019, funding for river improvement trusts will continue for the 2018–19 year through the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy's Natural Resource Investment Program.

The Natural Resource Investment Program provides avenues for organisations such as river improvement trusts to work collaboratively towards natural resource management outcomes. The $60 million program over four years caters for collaborative project opportunities with Queensland's natural resource management bodies to maintain and improve our state's rivers, and achieve landscape change. Of note, is the recent Natural Resource Management Innovation Grant Program which enables any Queensland organisation to apply for grants up to $1 million to improve Queensland's natural resources through innovative avenues.

Additional funding of $300,000 is provided this financial year to the State Council of River Trusts Queensland for the management of river improvement trusts' annual works programs.

The State Council of River Trusts Queensland is required to ensure that the funding for annual works programs is strategically allocated and supports state priorities.

Each trust is comprised of community members, as well as councillors in each local government area in which the trust operates.

Under the Act, local governments in the areas in which a trust operates are liable to contribute funding to the trust through a precept. In 2017–18, river improvement trusts reported collecting a total of $639,986 from precepts and $478,595 from landholder contributions and bank interest.