

Question on Notice

No. 845

Asked on Thursday, 16 May 2019

MR S ANDREW 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 on the programs in place to measure and regulate urban specific run-off and non-agricultural land clearing conducted within the Brisbane Metro and surrounding SEQ region and the possible effects upon waterways and marine environments including the Pacific ocean?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

The Department of Environment and Science provides comprehensive programs to monitor land use effects on waterways and marine environments in the south east Queensland region, extending to off-shore coastal waters of the Gold Coast.

South East Queensland waterways, estuaries and bays are extensively monitored and evaluated through the Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program to assess the health of freshwater, estuarine, and marine ecosystems. The results are synthesised and communicated through the Healthy Land and Water Annual Report Card.

The Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program encompasses waterways across a range of land use types, from rural headwaters to urbanised coastal environments. Long-term data trends from rural and urban sediment and nutrient emissions to waterways are recorded for a range of water quality indicators including biodiversity, habitat, physical chemistry and pollutant loads. The results inform statutory decision making under the Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009 and management actions to improve water quality.