

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 745

asked on Wednesday, 15 July 2020

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Inter-Governmental Agreement between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments, which provides a framework for ‘collaboration and coordination on proposed regulatory and management activities’ around land use practices in the Reef catchment areas and the jointly managed Reef 2050 Plan and other documents, which state a key objective of both governments is the ‘strengthening of the Queensland Government’s vegetation management legislation’—

Will the Minister advise what role, if any, the Commonwealth Government played in the initiation, drafting and introduction of Queensland’s Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Act in 2018?

ANSWER:

In 2015, the Reef 2050 Plan was jointly signed by then Australian Minister for the Environment and by the then Queensland Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef. The plan has been made a schedule of the Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement which was jointly signed in 2015 by the then Prime Minister of Australia and the Premier of Queensland.

The plan, developed cooperatively between the federal and state government’s put different responsibilities on each party. The Queensland Government was required to:

“Strengthen the Queensland Government’s vegetation management legislation to protect remnant and high value regrowth native vegetation, including in riparian zones.” – Reef 2050, p26, 37 & p92

In part, to give effect to this agreement, the Palaszczuk Government made an election commitment at the 2017 Queensland state election to reinstate these protections. This commitment was delivered when the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Act was enacted in 2018.

The Commonwealth Government generally has no role in the initiation, drafting and introduction of legislation into the Queensland Parliament.