

Question on Notice

No. 783

Asked on Thursday, 16 July 2020

MR D CRISAFULLI 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 2019-20 Budget Paper No. 4 page 125 relating to \$10m allocated to revitalising national parks—

Will the Minister advise how much of the allocated \$10m was expended in the 2019-20 financial year?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to ensuring Queensland's iconic national parks are well managed and well presented with a \$45 million investment provided over three years (2017-18 to 2019-20) to revitalise infrastructure in the State's most popular national parks.

Of the \$10 million Revitalising National Parks investment in 2019-20, a total of \$6.6 million was expended on projects including the Craig Trail on Whitsunday Island; K'gari dingo fences for tourist safety; Walkabout Creek Visitor Centre redevelopment; track upgrades in the Daintree, Tamborine and Lamington National Parks; and upgrades to visitor facilities in the D'Aguilar, Great Sandy, Glass House Mountains and Springbrook National Parks.

Over 150 construction workers were engaged to undertake these projects, with more expected for the completion of the balance of works.

This is a noteworthy achievement with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service rangers to progress these projects to construction and/or completion under the significant logistical challenges imposed by the State's response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. These challenges include unforeseen disruptions caused by travel restrictions for contractors, and the need to protect vulnerable communities and employees.

As part of the Palaszczuk Government's Economic Recovery Strategy - Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs, a further \$8.93 million investment in 2020-21 will deliver improved visitor facilities and enhance park management, while supporting local builders and trades people, regional supply chains and re-energising nature-based tourism in Queensland. This investment will support approximately 200 construction worker jobs over this financial year.