

Question on Notice

No. 838

Asked on Wednesday, 12 August 2020

MR J LANGBROEK 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 Department of Environment and Science's forward budget—

Will the Minister advise (in table format reported separately by financial year) budgeted funding across the 2020-21 to 2023-24 financial years for (a) the nature refuge program and (b) acquisition of national park land?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

Since February 2015, the Palaszczuk Government has increased the protected area estate by more than 1.2 million hectares. The protected area estate in Queensland now covers an area more than twice the size of Tasmania and includes the largest private protected area network in Australia.

For the 2020-21 financial year \$6.5 million and \$3.576 million has been allocated to the Department of Environment and Science for acquisition of national park land and the nature refuge program respectively.

An additional \$9.5 million is allocated to the 2020-21 financial year (along with additional ongoing funds to manage the acquisitions). These funds are held centrally by Queensland Treasury to support acquisition of properties of high conservation value to be added to Queensland's protected area estate.

Following the announcement by the Prime Minister at National Cabinet, all Governments have agreed to delay their Budgets. The Queensland Treasurer has announced that, if the Government is returned by the people of Queensland with a clear majority, a Queensland Budget will be delivered in the week beginning 30 November 2020. This will include departmental budgets with forward estimates for 2020-21 to 2023-24.