

Question on Notice

No. 645

Asked on 25 May 2021

MR A PERRETT ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise since 2019 how many properties, facilities or assets has the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries identified for sale, listed by (a) location, (b) anticipated sale date and (c) if sold, the sale date and price?

ANSWER:

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) delivers its core business through a diverse mix of research and operational facilities located throughout rural and regional Queensland and in doing so it continually reviews its facilities with the aim of maintaining a world-class infrastructure base so that is relevant to industry.

DAF undertakes the disposal and purchases of assets including heavy plant, land and facilities as part of its ordinary course of business. The most common methods of disposal are via auction and trade-in.

There are many steps that DAF must go through prior to disposing of properties which are deemed surplus to departmental requirements. Impediments can include tidal incursion, chemical or noxious weed contamination issues and zoning issues.

The department is funded for the upgrades, replacement and new asset acquisitions through a range of capital programs including research facilities development, minor works, heavy plant and equipment, scientific equipment, vessels and marine equipment and computer equipment programs. These programs are in addition to individual large purchases of properties and/or infrastructure which occur for operational needs and research outcomes, as required.

Some of these locations were surplus to requirements for a number of years prior to disposal.

Details of the six (6) properties/facilities which have been sold since 2019 are listed below:

| No | Location (a) | Actual Date of Sale (b) | Sale Price (c) |
|----|---|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Western Darling Downs (Cadarga Dip) | 10/05/2019 | \$85,000 |
| 2 | Roma (Lot 2) | 8/07/2019 | \$660,000 |
| 3 | Roma (Lot 3) | 8/07/2019 | \$350,000 |
| 4 | Bribie Island Vacant Land, ex - Joondoburri Conference Centre site ¹ | 3/07/2020 | \$500,000 |
| 5 | Blackwater (Berrigurra, ex-QATC asset) ² | 19/05/2021 | \$32,500,000 |

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|------------|---------------------|
| 6 | Kingaroy (Redvale) ³ | 26/05/2021 | \$575,000 |
| | TOTAL | | \$34,670,000 |

¹ Settlement date 3 January 2022

² Settlement date 18 June 2021

³ Settlement date 26 June 2021

Investments in scientific facilities including the Ecosciences, Health and Food Sciences Precincts in Brisbane and in the Spyglass Beef Research Facility at Charters Towers underpin DAF's science and biosecurity service delivery.

Details of capital purchases since 2019 are listed below:

| Financial Year | Capital purchases | Major items |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 2018-19 | \$20,600,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$5.5M for research facility development, scientific equipment and minor works • \$3M Toowoomba facility upgrade • \$2.5M heavy plant and equipment • \$1.1M vessels, \$1M restoration of Jimna Fire Tower • \$0.406M fitout EcoSciences & Health Food Sciences precincts • \$5M ICT equipment. |
| 2019-20 | \$17,400,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$6.4M research facility development, scientific equipment and minor works • \$5M ICT equipment • \$2M heavy plant and equipment • \$1.7M stage 1 of Toowoomba facility upgrade • \$1.1M vessels • \$0.700M refurbishment of Tick Fever Centre at Wacol • \$0.406M fitout of EcoSciences & Health Food Sciences precincts. |
| 2020-21 (till 31 May 2021) | \$11,700,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3.6M stage 2 Toowoomba facility upgrade • \$5.2M research facility development, scientific equipment and minor works • \$1.8M vessels • \$1.1M refurbishment of Tick Fever Centre at Wacol. |
| TOTAL | \$49,700,000 | |