

Question on Notice

No. 763

Asked on Tuesday, 15 June 2021

MR M BOOTHMAN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the \$5.2m line item in the Budget 2020-21 Capital Statements titled 'National Parks Works and Jobs Boost'—

Will the Minister provide (a) how much of the allocated monies have been spent to date, (b) when the allocated monies will be spent in this FY and (c) if all monies are not to be spent this FY how much the underspend will be?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

A capital investment of \$5.2 million was made in 2020-21 as part of the Palaszczuk Government's Economic Recovery Strategy – Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs. This program has delivered improved visitor facilities and enhanced park management; while supporting local builders and trades people, regional supply chains and re-energising nature-based tourism in Queensland. This investment supported approximately 200 construction worker jobs during the 2020-21 financial year.

As at 30 June 2021, \$4.1 million has been expended with all other funds committed to projects. There will be approximately \$1.1 million not expended in the 2020-21 financial year due to weather and material delays; however, these funds are committed to projects for delivery early in the 2021-22 financial year.

This program was designed to engage small local contractors throughout the State to undertake minor works within our parks in areas such as road, fence, and track construction. A total of 55 projects are either complete or currently in progress.

This funding also contributed to several larger capital works projects including Mon Repos and Boodjumbilla National Parks Renewable Energy projects; Alligator Creek Day Use Area upgrade at Bowling Green Bay National Park; and upgrades to entry signs in selected iconic parks such as Springbrook and Lamington National Parks.