

Question on Notice

No. 783

Asked on Tuesday, 15 June 2021

MR J LISTER 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 \$7,280m line item in the Budget 2020-21 Capital Statements titled 'Protected Area Strategy land acquisition and management'—

Will the Minister provide (a) the break down in this funding between acquisition and management and (b) a non-identifying list of all properties identified for acquisition, including land size, which public protected area it would form part of, and property value?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

Since February 2015, protected areas in Queensland have increased by over 1.22 million hectares – up from 7.56 per cent to 8.26 per cent of the State. Queensland's protected area system now covers an area more than twice the size of Tasmania and includes the largest private protected network in Australia.

On 3 October 2020, the Queensland Government released *Queensland's Protected Area Strategy 2020-2030*, a ten-year plan for supporting the growth, management and sustainability of national parks and other protected areas. An initial investment of \$60 million over four years has been allocated to implement the strategy, which includes \$28 million over four years for acquiring and managing new land for addition to Queensland's public protected area estate.

The \$7.28 million allocated in the 2020-21 financial year is for land acquisitions. Funding for management, community engagement and capital set up is allocated over the 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 financial years as new land acquisitions are finalised, and properties are dedicated as protected areas under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

In 2021, the Department of Environment and Science has already acquired 42 hectares of land to extend the Mon Repos Conservation Park. This acquisition will protect dune ground water recharge areas critical to the sustainable ecological function of the internationally significant marine turtle rookery.

The department is engaged in advanced commercial-in-confidence negotiations with a number of landholders from across the State with a view to entering into contracts of sale for priority land acquisitions. As this information is commercial-in-confidence, I am not able to provide any further details at this point in time.

The funds are fully allocated to the properties under negotiation.