

Question on Notice

No. 818

Asked on Wednesday, 16 June 2021

MR J KRAUSE 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 \$6.5m line item in the Budget 2020-21 Capital Statement titled 'Protect Area acquisitions - Cape York'—

Will the Minister provide details of (a) how much of the allocated monies have been spent to date, (b) the amount of land acquired so far 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.

The Department of Environment and Science, Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Program was allocated capital budget of \$6.5 million for acquisitions. Included in this allocation was \$0.5 million specifically for the purchase of a 75-year lease on Cape York Peninsula.

In May 2021, the department concluded the purchase of the 75-year lease over 274 hectares of land. This now enables Traditional Owners of this land to own, manage and promote tourism on this popular area of Cape York Peninsula coastline. Importantly the land is now available for unfettered access by Traditional Owners and the exercise of native title rights and interests.

For the remaining \$6 million in funding, the department is engaged in advanced commercial-in-confidence negotiations with a view to acquiring land in the Cape York Peninsula region in 2021-22.

This Government continues to work with First Nations peoples to improve economic and environmental outcomes for the people of the Cape York Peninsula region.