

Question on Notice

No. 1175

Asked on Thursday, 27 October 2022

MR A POWELL 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 \$34m allocated to the management of Curtis Island (collectively by the then State Government and LNG companies)—

Will the Minister advise (a) how much has been spent to date and what the expenditure has been spent on and (b) how much is to be spent per year for the next 10 years and on what?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

In 2011, Contribution and Maintenance Deeds were agreed to between the State of Queensland (the State) and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) proponents in relation to the Curtis Island Environmental Management Precinct (EMP).

In 2013, the Coordinator-General handed responsibility for management of the Curtis Island EMP to the then Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing—recognising its expertise in land and conservation management. The State, via the Department of Environment and Science (DES) has been administering the funds in accordance with the legal obligations of the Deeds held between each of the LNG proponents and the Curtis Island EMP (now replaced by the Curtis Island National Park Management Statement 2019).

The Deeds have Commercial-in-Confidence clauses for both the State and the LNG proponents, and DES is guided in financial matters by Queensland Government legislation and standards, including the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*.

With the exception of the publicly available DES Annual Reports, confidentiality clauses mean that financial details such as available funds or annual costs (collectively or by individual project) cannot be shared with third parties. The DES Annual Report 2021-22 weblink is available here <https://www.des.qld.gov.au/our-department/corporate-docs/annual-report>.

Since taking over management of the Curtis Island EMP, DES has dedicated 1,912 hectares as national park and 1,010 hectares as conservation park, established a Curtis Island LNG neighbours fire meeting group and continued the Curtis Island Environmental Precinct Reference Group.

DES continues to implement its Pest Management Strategy across Curtis Island. This has resulted in significant reduction of impact to Flatback Turtle nests and significant recovery of the endangered Capricorn Yellow Chat—going from one counted in 1992 to 70 counted in 2022.

DES, together with Traditional Owners and contractors have controlled many weed species including the treatment of ecosystem transforming pest plants such as Giant Rat tail grass, Olive Hymenachne, Thatch grass, Rubbervine, Lantana and Prickly Pear. DES has re-established and maintains 78 kilometres of fire lines across Curtis Island to mitigate wildfire risk and provide enhanced access and fire crew safety in the event of wildfires.

To provide safer community access on Curtis Island, DES constructed the road to Grahams Creek with a boat ramp and completed lookouts at Ship Hill. Park visitors enjoy the rehabilitated Connors Bluff day-use area and 52 kilometres of recently constructed multi-use trails. To further promote visitor access, DES will upgrade two campgrounds including improving waste management, construct two new lookouts and improve four-wheel drive access to the northern marine plain.

As per the strategic planning priorities outlined in the Curtis Island National Park Management Statement 2019, DES will continue to implement its associated strategies in partnership with the Traditional Owners.