

Question on Notice

No. 1178

Asked on Thursday, 27 October 2022

MR L MILLAR 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 gas operators in Queensland being required to provide offsets to both State and Federal Governments for impacts to Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) and Matters of State Environmental Significance (MSES)—

Will the Minister advise (a) the total amount of actual disturbance to MNES and MSES values, (b) the total amount of offset areas provided in Queensland to mitigate disturbance impacts and (c) whether the industry has delivered a net gain through the provision of offsets?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

Since the commencement of the Queensland environmental offsets framework in 2014, the Department of Environment and Science has been requiring the petroleum and gas sector, through environmental authority conditions, to provide an environmental offset where there is a significant residual impact to Matters of State Environmental Significance. There is approximately 600 hectares of impact on Matters of State Environmental Significance that require an environmental offset across Queensland.

Queensland does not record Matters of National Environmental Significance offset decisions as these are matters for the Commonwealth.

Under the Queensland environmental offsets framework, authority holders can choose to meet their offset condition as a proponent-driven offset, financial settlement offset or a combination of both. Since 2014, the majority of petroleum and gas proponents have elected to meet their offset obligation by way of financial settlement totalling approximately \$4.6 million in payments.

Under the Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy, an environmental offset is designed to provide a no net loss outcome for impacted values.