

Question on Notice

No. 1276

Asked on Tuesday, 8 November 2022

MR S O'CONNOR ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister (a) explain the variance in 'Improving Great Barrier Reef Water Quality' expenses between 2022 (\$5,019,000) and 2021 (\$14,555,000) as detailed on page 71 of the department's Annual Report 2021-22 under B2-3 Grants and Subsidies, (b) detail what changes were made in delivery models and (c) detail changes to the profile of payments that led to this decrease?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government has committed close to \$1 billion towards protecting Queensland's iconic Great Barrier Reef since 2015. This record level of investment includes \$270.1 million over five years to 2025-26 to continue the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program which includes \$20 million to expand the Reef Assist program to all six Reef catchment areas to improve catchment health and create regional jobs.

- (a) The variance is predominantly due to the completion of projects including a number of projects under the initial Reef Assist Program as part of the Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as some other minor Reef Water Quality projects.
- (b) There was no change in the delivery model for these programs which are delivered under contractual agreements with delivery partners.
- (c) Details in the following table:

Program	2020-21 \$M	2021-22 \$M
Reef Assist*	6.487	0.014
Queensland Reef Water Quality 2017-22	5.533	1.965
Queensland Reef Water Quality 2021-26	-	0.525
Reef Trust	1.455	1.845
Other	1.080	0.670
Total	14.555	5.019

*Note that \$0.6 million of Reef Assist grants were also expended in 2021-22 and were categorised in the Department of Environment and Science's Financial Statements Grants and Subsidies expenditure category under the Protecting environments, ecosystems, habitats and species deliverable.