

Question on Notice

No. 317

Asked on Wednesday, 30 March 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:

With reference to tyre dumping—

Will the Minister advise (a) what plans the government has to manage tyre dumping with the South West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils and (b) what data does the department have on the scale of this issue?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government has invested significantly in assisting councils in south west Queensland prevent and undertake compliance on illegal dumping, including the dumping of tyres.

In total, South West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils' (SWQROC) members have been approved for over \$1 million in funding to address the problem. Members have received funding through the Local Government Illegal Dumping Hotspot Grants Program, the Local Government Illegal Dumping Partnerships Program and the Regional Recycling Transport Assistance Package. The Regional Recycling Transport Assistance Package assisted SWQROC members to collectively transport over 1,800 tonnes of waste, primarily legacy, tyres from the region to recycling facilities.

Tyre Stewardship Australia, the not-for-profit organisation administering the voluntary tyre stewardship scheme, is close to finalising a regional business case for a circular economy response for end-of-life tyres in Queensland. South West Queensland is one of the regions profiled, and the work includes assessing current management processes, infrastructure locations and potential to recover end-of-life tyre volumes via alternative methods.

On 11 December 2021, the Queensland Government announced a 10-year \$2.1 billion waste package, including a Recycling and Jobs Fund. Part of this announcement is a commitment to support the development of regional waste management plans. These plans will identify and prioritise actions for the region and provide an investment blueprint to enable access to available funding through the Fund and other potential co-funding sources. Work on the Darling Downs-Southwest Queensland Plan is well underway.

Historically, most reports for illegal dumping have been made directly to the local councils and the Queensland Government has therefore had limited access to tyre dumping data.

The Palaszczuk Government's Local Government Illegal Dumping Partnerships Program is helping to bridge this data gap. The program has enhanced intelligence and data reporting capabilities on illegal dumping activities, through funding and the introduction of information sharing agreements with partner councils. Balonne Shire Council is one council to receive funding through this program and reported 25 tyre-related illegal dumping incidents, totalling approximately 71 cubic metres of tyres, between May 2020 and September 2021.

Round 1 of the Local Government Illegal Dumping Partnerships Program grants provided funding to 27 local governments with councils reporting over 10,000 incidents investigated, issuing of more than 880 fines totalling over \$1.3 million, and clean-up of over 17 million litres of waste.

To-date over 130 council officers have been trained in investigation and enforcement techniques and this training is available to all Queensland councils.