

Question on Notice

No. 836

Asked on Thursday, 18 August 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 provide a full breakdown of funding expended by the Department of Environment and Science for the last five financial years to support the protection of the Great Barrier Reef, (reported separately by year including information on program/project title, location, duration and cost)?

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 \$10 million to expand the Reef Assist program to all six Reef catchment areas to improve catchment health and create regional jobs.

The Government's efforts to protect the Great Barrier Reef include a suite of actions including:

- strong regulations and robust compliance and extension programs to put an end to high polluting practices;
- support for industry, for example, to help farmers to adopt best management practices, deliver pasture improvement, and build fencing and infrastructure improvements to limit impacts to water quality;
- funding for land restoration activities such as gully and streambank rehabilitation to limit high sediment loads;
- a joint field management program with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to deliver on-ground pest, fire and visitor management in the Great Barrier Reef marine park;
- regional jobs with an estimated one in three of the 350 jobs created, filled by First Nations peoples; and
- crucially, providing the underpinning science and monitoring, and supporting governance architecture, to guide investment decisions and evaluate progress.

Annual Investment Reports have been published since 2015-16 and can be viewed on the Department of Environment and Science website at: <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/coasts-waterways/reef/reef-program>.

Program and project information, including location, duration and costs is publicly available via the CORAL database at: <https://www.coral.des.qld.gov.au/>.