

Question on Notice

No. 958

Asked on Thursday, 1 September 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 page 62 of the Capital Statement and the \$2.9m over 5 years and \$628,000 per annum ongoing (held centrally) outlined to support critical infrastructure upgrades and maintenance costs associated with the increase of the protected estate—

Will the Minister provide a breakdown of projects that have or will be undertaken in the 2022-23 financial year?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government will be investing \$262.5 million over four years for the continuation of Queensland's Protected Area Strategy 2020–2030, for land acquisitions and capital works to increase Queensland's public protected area estate. Additionally, an extra \$20 million has been allocated for voluntary land purchase to be jointly managed by traditional owners as new national parks and Aboriginal freehold on Cape York.

As detailed in Budget Paper 4 – Budget Measures, the Palaszczuk Government has also allocated funding of \$2.9 million over five years and \$628,000 per annum ongoing, held centrally, to support critical infrastructure upgrades and maintenance costs associated with the increase of the protected area estate. This funding is specific to an acquisition the Department of Environment and Science is currently in confidential negotiations with the vendor.

In the event of a contract being agreed to purchase, detailed planning and consultation with our First Nations partners needs to occur prior to any on-ground works. This detailed planning will identify and prioritise works required to support transition to a protected area tenure, any future capital investment required, for example in visitor facilities, and any specific maintenance work required on the property.