

Question on Notice

No. 1606

Asked on Thursday, 30 November 2023

MR R MOLHOEK ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (HON L LINARD)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how much funding has been allocated for management activities of the department to manage the threat of yellow crazy ants in protected areas (reported separately by year and region) for the last three years?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

Yellow crazy ants are a significant exotic pest that can cause harm to humans, wildlife and our agricultural industries.

Since 2020-21, the Queensland and Australian Governments have allocated a combined \$18 million to the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program under a joint funding agreement.

The Department of Environment, Science and Innovation manages the threat of yellow crazy ants via the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program which is delivered by the Wet Tropics Management Authority and was allocated \$6 million for the 2020-21 financial year, \$6 million for the 2021-22 financial year and \$6 million for the 2022-23 financial year. All of this funding is allocated to target infestations in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area/Region and protected areas in the Cairns region. The Program targets areas both inside and outside of protected area focusing on eradicating ants within these areas and preventing infestations spreading to other locations.

In addition to this, the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation is also working with local government on other yellow crazy ant infestation sites that impact protected areas. Funds allocated from the general pest management budget include:

- \$11,780 for activities in the Airlie Beach region in 2021-22
- \$11,923 for activities in the Airlie Beach region in 2022-23
- \$13,636 for activities at Bowling Green Bay in the Townsville region in 2022-23.