Question on Notice

No. 520

Asked on 9 May 2023

MR S O'CONNOR ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister (a) outline what environmental management or restoration activities have been carried out by the State Government on the Greenridge site at Pimpama and (b) detail the results of any assessments undertaken to determine how many koalas the property supports at present and the number it could support in the future?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Bonney for the question.

To assist in the long-term conservation of the northern Gold Coast koala population, the Queensland Government purchased the 407-hectare property at Green Meadows Road, Pimpama, known as Greenridge.

Greenridge is strategically located within the Southern Moreton Bay to Wongawallan Bioregional Corridor and is adjacent to Gold Coast City Council's Pimpama River Conservation Area, which will help protect the local koala population and improve its home range and connectivity well into the future. This purchase complemented another 390-hectare property purchased at Tabooba, bringing the total to nearly 800 hectares secured for environmental offsets for Coomera Connector stage 1 and future stages.

As part of the approved Public Environment Report (PER) and Koala Management Plan, TMR is expending significant effort and investment to improve the health of koalas in the Koala Tagging and Monitoring Program with regular vet checks, health management and chlamydia vaccination trials.

(a) As part of the approval of the PER, the project has been conditioned to develop Offset Area Management Plans (OAMP). These OAMP will detail the management actions the Department of Transport and Main Roads must undertake to ensure the rehabilitation and regeneration of the offset sites.

(b) Based on the estimated detection rate, the number of koalas at the Greenridge site is between 80 and 105. It is not possible to determine the absolute number of koalas that Greenridge could support in the future due to environmental factors such as drought, bushfire, disease prevalence, predation, connectivity and potential future offset provisions.