

## Question on Notice

No. 705

Asked on Thursday, 25 May 2023

**MR S O'CONNOR** 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 provide, for the financial year to date, the number of site visits to properties classified as private protected areas conducted by officers of the department for the purpose of environmental assessment or any other activities related to monitoring and supporting the management of these conservation areas?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for the question.

For the 2022-23 financial year to 29 May 2023, Department of Environment and Science officers have made 61 site visits to properties classified as private protected areas for the purposes of environmental assessment, monitoring and supporting the management of these conservation areas. A further 64 site visits have been undertaken by Ecosure Pty Ltd, on behalf of the department, as part of the Landholder Services Pilot, which aims to enhance the support provided to landholders to manage and monitor the condition of their private protected area.

Given the binding commitments made by private landholders, the number of departmental or government funded visits, while important, is not the overarching priority of the private protected areas program. Rather, property management based on a Conservation Agreement, property management plan and/or up-to-date data is the basis for achieving shared conservation and landholder objectives. As part of the Landholder Services Pilot, Ecosure are working towards developing over 100 property management plans, with 30 already complete and a further 24 being finalised.

The department is also in the process of designing a property-level assessment tool that will enable the assessment of conservation values and their condition. This will enhance the department's ability to work with landholders to monitor conservation values over time.