

Question on Notice

No. 873

Asked on Friday, 16 June 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 (a) provide the emissions produced by the operations of the Department of Environment and Science (reported separately by year) for the last three years, (b) outline any projections that have been made for the next three years of emissions reductions, (c) confirm if the department will achieve net zero before 2030 on current projections and (d) outline the results of any additional assessments made of the emissions produced by other State Government departments and operations?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Department of Environment and Science has committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2030 and has a range of actions underway to reduce emissions.

The department is making good progress on this commitment. Contracts are in place to provide 100 per cent renewable energy to all of the department's major premises. The department has also installed energy efficiency measures at a number of grid-connected buildings, including the Queensland Herbarium, the Gladstone Marine Parks Operational Base and the Mon Repos Turtle Centre. The department is progressively installing solar systems to displace diesel power generation in off-grid buildings. Projects have been completed at a number of ranger bases including, K'gari, Diamantina, Welford, Lakefield, New Laura, Boodjamulla, Heathlands and Blackdown Tablelands. The combined capacity of solar systems on the estate now exceeds 1,000 kilowatts.

93% of the departmental small and medium sized and SUV fleet is now electric or electric/hybrid, with a plan to transition to a fully electric fleet as soon as lease arrangements allow.

The latest data published on the Queensland Government Open Data portal shows the total emissions for the department in the 2020-21 financial year was 7,153 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent across the reported categories. This was significantly lower than the figure of 34,449 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent for the 2019-20 financial year, although the two figures are not directly comparable due to machinery of government changes that occurred. The figure for the 2021-22 financial year is not yet available.

The department does not publish specific projections for the years leading up to 2030. Based on the breakdown of current departmental emissions, together with current initiatives being implemented and those in the planning stage, the department remains confident that the target of net zero by 2030 will be achieved.

Each government department is responsible for assessing its own operational emissions and putting in place initiatives aimed at reducing these emissions over time.

Department-specific initiatives are supported by whole of government measures. This includes measures under the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan which commits to procuring 100 per cent renewable energy for large government sites by 2030, and the Queensland Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy, which commits to transition all eligible QFleet passenger vehicles to electric vehicles by 2026. In addition, the Queensland Procurement Policy 2023 identifies procurement-specific targets that must be pursued to support the Queensland Government's economy-wide emissions reduction targets.