

Question on Notice

No. 1254

Asked on Thursday, 12 December 2024

MR S KNUTH ASKED MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON A POWELL)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the change rooms at Lake Eacham within Crater Lakes National Park having been closed for over 12 months due to being unsafe, leaving swimmers without a safe place to change—

Will the Minister commit to providing funding to repair and re-open the changeroom sheds at Lake Eacham?

ANSWER:

Lake Eacham, part of Crater Lakes National Park, is a culturally significant, biodiverse and unique ecosystem located within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

The existing change shed at Lake Eacham is a female-only facility with an open design that offers no privacy. During a building condition inspection conducted in February 2024, it was identified that the substructure had deteriorated, leading to its closure for safety reasons. Nearby facilities provide alternative amenities, including nine lockable unisex cubicles, one of which is universally accessible and all suitable for changing.

The Queensland Government has allocated funding to commence a redevelopment project for the Lake Eacham day-use area. This initiative aims to enhance the visitor experience, improve public safety, address aging infrastructure and provide universal accessibility across the site.

The initial concept plans for this project include renovating the change shed to create an open viewing visitor lookout with interpretative messaging, rather than retaining its use as a change room.

Community consultation on the proposals is proposed for early 2025. Feedback will be invited through several channels, including via the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation's website.