

Question on Notice

No. 179

Asked on Wednesday, 6 March 2024

MR S O'CONNOR ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON L LINARD)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Environmental Offset Account—

Will the Minister provide (a) how much is currently held in the fund, (b) how many financial settlement offset payments were made (i) in the 2022-23 financial year and the total funds received, (ii) to date in this financial year and the total funds received, (c) expended funds from the Environmental Offset Account (reported separately by year for the last five years) and (d) a breakdown of activities which have received funding from the Environmental Offsets Account?

ANSWER:

- (a) As at 29 February 2024, \$64,094,239 was held in the Offset Account.
- (b)(i) In the 2022-23 financial year, 39 financial settlement offset payments totalling \$4,535,940 were received.
- (ii) In the 2023-24 financial year, as at 29 February 2024, 42 financial settlement offset payments totalling \$3,226,786 have been received.
- (c) Funds expended from the Offset Account for the last five financial years are \$760,562 in the 2019-20 financial year; \$1,957,413 in the 2020-21 financial year; \$1,019,566 in the 2021-22 financial year; \$1,714,711 in the 2022-23 financial year; and \$1,705,819 in the 2023-24 financial year (as at 29 February 2024).
- (d) A breakdown of activities that have received funding from the Offset Account are as follows:
 - Identify, secure and manage land to benefit:
 - the threatened Eastern Ground Parrot
 - koala habitat in the Brigalow Belt Bioregion
 - koala habitat in three local government areas in the Southeast Queensland Bioregion
 - seven regional ecosystems in the Southeast Queensland Bioregion
 - three regional ecosystems, two threatened fauna species and two threatened flora species in the Wet Tropics and Einasleigh Uplands Bioregions
 - threatened flora species including:
 - Austral Toadflax (*Thesium australe*)
 - Glass House Mountains Tea Tree (*Leptospermum luehmannii*)
 - Whipstick Wattle (*Acacia attenuata*).

- Identify and manage marine areas to benefit:
 - marine plants
 - fish passage.
- Conduct research activities to support the recovery of the threatened Sunshine Coast Myrtle (*Lenwebbia* sp.).
- Replace traditional boat moorings with environmentally friendly moorings to benefit seagrass regeneration.
- Engagement of scientific and natural resource management expertise to support offset activity delivery.
- Activities to benefit State-owned protected areas.