

Question on Notice

No. 431

Asked on Wednesday, 17 April 2024

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

QUESTION:

With reference to a number of landowners in my electorate of Hill having agreed to Nature Refuges on their land and landowners receiving very little from the state to cover significantly increased expenses related to maintaining nature refuges, other than a grants program that I have been informed did not run last year—

Will the Minister advise when the grants program will be available and if there has been an increase in funding to cover rising costs of maintaining these Nature Refuges?

ANSWER:

Funding for Nature Refuges is allocated through a competitive grants process and future expenditure for the program is currently under consideration.

The funding for Nature Refuge Landholder Grants has increased over the past three years. Funding allocations were:

- \$408,657 allocated to 63 grant recipients for Round 4 in 2020-21;
- \$950,162 allocated to 82 grant recipients for Round 5 in 2021-22; and
- \$1,098,227 allocated to 80 grant recipients for Round 6 in 2022-23.

Over these financial years, 36 grants were provided to nature refuge landholders in the Hill electorate, totalling \$406,181.

In 2020-21, a total of \$127,871 was also allocated to 28 grant recipients to engage a suitably qualified professional to develop a fire management plan for their nature refuge. Three of the 28 grant recipients were in the Hill electorate and received \$13,828.

The funding available to landholders for individual projects funded through the Nature Refuge Landholder Grants program increased from between \$1,000 and \$10,000 for Round 4; to between \$2,500 and \$20,000 for Round 5; and between \$2,500 and \$25,000 for Round 6.