

Question on Notice

No. 574

Asked on Thursday, 22 May 2025

DR B O'SHEA ASKED MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON A POWELL)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation proactively engages to protect Queensland's natural assets from development which may be harmful to the environment?

ANSWER:

The Crisafulli Government is dedicated to protecting Queensland's pristine natural environment and responsibly sharing it with the world.

That is why we have set ourselves an ambitious target to add more land to Queensland's protected area estate in one term than the previous government did in ten years. We will also ensure that Queensland's natural assets can be seen, experienced, and loved by Queenslanders, with sustainable ecotourism forming a key pillar of *Destination 2045: Delivering Queensland's Tourism Future*.

The Crisafulli Government's *More Rangers, Better Neighbours* will end years of inaction on invasive weeds and feral species in national parks and help restore relationships with farmers and landholders that have previously been allowed to crumble. We will deliver 150 new Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers in the next four years – including 40 frontline specialist Fire Management Rangers that were left unfunded by the previous government.

The Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation administers legislative and policy frameworks that protect Queensland's valuable natural assets under national and marine parks and manages impacts to other environmental values. This includes administering the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* that includes a general environmental duty for all Queenslanders to prevent environmental harm. In areas where development is allowed, activities that may harm environmental values are assessed and conditioned to enhance outcomes for Queensland's communities, threatened species and ecosystems.

Properly managing our natural assets is all part of the fresh start the Crisafulli Government is delivering for our environment.