

Question on Notice

No. 815

Asked on Thursday, 26 June 2025

HON L LINARD ASKED MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON A POWELL)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister confirm whether the \$39.6m allocated in the 2025-26 Budget for the expansion of protected areas is new and additional investment to the previous Miles Government's commitment to expand protected area funding with an investment of \$262.5m originally allocated in the 2022-23 State Budget?

ANSWER:

The Crisafulli Government is committed to supporting farmers as environmental stewards of their land and boosting Queensland's protected area estate through strategic acquisitions and voluntary partnerships with landholders.

We are also committed to growing the protected area estate at a faster rate than was achieved by the previous government. As you may be aware, the former government's target of protecting 17 per cent of Queensland was not met, with only one per cent growth delivered over nearly a decade.

To support this commitment, \$39.6 million has been allocated in the 2025-26 State Budget from existing funds.

Unlike the former government, the Crisafulli Government is equally focused on ensuring that protected areas are well managed. Through our *More Rangers, Better Neighbours* policy, we will deliver an additional 150 rangers, including 40 specialist Fire Management Rangers, roles the former government failed to fund.