

**INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 1

Asked on Thursday, 28 June 2018

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Department of Environment and Science revenue measures located on page 147 of Budget Paper 4 – will the Minister, by program and financial year, outline the budgeted allocation for each measure that the Government has used to calculate the expected 70% figure of revenue generated between 2018-19 and 2021-22 through the waste levy, that will be allocated to advance payments to councils, scheme start up and operational costs, industry programs and other environmental priorities?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The LNP's repeal of the waste levy in 2012 robbed Queensland of the ability to invest in the waste and recycling industry and left Queensland as the only mainland State without a levy.

A waste levy is an integral part of a comprehensive recycling, resource recovery and waste management strategy. Unfortunately, Queensland is one of the worst performing states for recycling, with only 48% of waste being recycled annually.

The levy will be instrumental in changing waste management practices in Queensland. By discouraging the disposal of waste to landfill, the levy will facilitate greater investment certainty for job-creating reuse, recycling, bioproducts and waste to energy industries.

It has been estimated that, while every 10,000 tonnes of waste disposed into landfill supports less than three full time jobs, the same amount of waste being recycled supports more than nine jobs.

The introduction of a levy will align Queensland with every other mainland state, and send a direct price signal that waste sent to landfill is the worst option and a lost economic opportunity.

I recently announced that the levy will commence on 4 March 2019 at an initial rate of \$70 per tonne (higher for regulated waste) with annual increments of \$5 per tonne.

The 2018-19 State Budget Paper 4 clearly states that 70 percent of revenue generated from the levy will be allocated to advance payments to councils, scheme start-up and

operational costs, industry programs and other environmental priorities. That is the government's clear commitment and it is a commitment we will meet. Decisions on allocations to specific programs will be made progressively.

The 2018-19 State Budget already provides \$100 million over three years for a new Resource Recovery Industry Development Program. A further \$32 million will be also allocated in 2018-19 as advance payments to local councils to ensure that Queenslanders will not pay more to put out their wheelie bin. The amount made in advance payments beyond 2018-19 will take into account actual council waste figures from levy returns and will be reported in future budgets.

Further, Budget Paper 4 also clearly outlines that \$15 million in 2018-19 and \$19 million over the following three years has been allocated for implementation of the levy and recurrent operational costs.

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Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No.2

Asked on Thursday, 28 June 2018

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Department of Environment and Science's SDS page 5 – will the Minister outline, by program and financial year, both the budgeted and actual expenditure of all reef related initiatives over 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to protecting the Great Barrier Reef for future generations. We are investing a record \$330 million in the Reef over five years to boost joint management and improve water quality to make the Reef more resilient.

In the 2018-19 State Budget, the Government has allocated an additional \$39.8 million for the Reef, which includes \$13.8 million to improve water quality and \$26 million to expand the joint field management program.

Improving water quality remains a key priority for Reef protection, with over \$260 million committed through the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program over five years, delivered by the Office of the Great Barrier Reef.

For this program, the budgeted and actual expenditure for each of the financial years requested are published on the Queensland Government website at www.qld.gov.au/environment/coasts-waterways/reef-program, as part of annual investment plans and reports. Actual expenditure figures for the 2017-18 period are not available at this time due to end of financial year processing. An investment report on the 2017-18 year, including actual expenditure, will also be published on the Queensland Government website in the second quarter of the 2018-19 year.

With this year's budget, the joint Great Barrier Reef Field Management Program, delivered by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service in partnership with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), now has a total investment of \$70 million over five years. Through this program, rangers are taking practical on-ground actions every day to monitor and maintain island and marine ecosystems.

For this program, the activities and both the budgeted and actual expenditure for the financial years requested are published on the GBRMPA's website at www.gbrmpa.gov.au/managing-the-reef/how-the-reefs-managed/field-management-of-the-great-barrier-reef-marine-park. Actual expenditure figures for the 2017-18 period are not available at this time due to end of financial year processing. An investment report on the 2017-18 year, including actual expenditure, will also be published on the GBRMPA's website in the second quarter of the 2018-19 year.

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Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 3

Asked on Thursday, 28 June 2018

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Department of Environment and Science's SDS page 6 Underground Coal Gas Investigations program— can the Minister provide a detailed breakdown of the budgeted and where available, the estimated actual, funding including, (a) staffing, (b) capital expenditure and (c) and funds committed to outside agencies from program establishment to 2021-22?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The following table provides details of budgeted and where available, actual expenditure, for staffing, capital expenditure and funds committed to outside agencies for the Underground Coal Gas Investigation Program from 2017/2018 to 2021/2022:

Financial Year	Staffing (\$M)	Capital Expenditure (\$M)	Funds Committed to Outside Agencies ** (\$M)	Total (\$M)
2017/2018	2.169 (Unaudited Actual)		0.966 (Budget)	3.135
2018/2019	1.136 (Budget)	1.642 (Budget)	0.875 (Budget)	3.653
2019/2020	-	-	0.877 (Budget)	0.877
2020/2021	-		0.914 (Budget)	0.914
2021/2022	-	-	-	-
Total	3.305	1.642	3.632	8.579

** This is the budget that was allocated by the Government and includes salary, non-salary and capital costs. These funds are allocated to the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.

It should be noted that financial costs for the Department of Environment and Science non-salary operational expenditure is not included.

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Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 4

Asked on Thursday, 28 June 2018

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Department of Environment and Science's SDS page 5 Environmental Protection Services area description – will the Minister, by financial year, outline the average assessment time taken to process each application type managed by the Department over 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Department of Environment and Science has provided the average assessment time taken to process all applications types for new standard, variation and site-specific environmental authorities and amendments to the same issued under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 financial years.

In certain circumstances, the time taken to process an application will be longer than the average timeframes, but still within the statutory assessment timeframes where the assessment process involves:

- a requirement for an environmental impact assessment;
- public notification periods;
- information requests made to applicants to aid the assessment decision; and
- an appeal process through the Land Court.

The department advises that for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 financial years, the average assessment timeframes in business days are:

Application Type	Average Assessment Time 2016-17	Average Assessment Time 2017-18
Application for a new Environmental Authority	35	27
Application to amend an Environmental Authority	40	22
Application to surrender an Environmental Authority	35	28

Application Type	Average Assessment Time 2016-17	Average Assessment Time 2017-18
Application to transfer an Environmental Authority	29	29
Application to suspend an Environmental Authority	2	3
Application to amalgamate or de-amalgamate an Environmental Authority	20	18
Application to discharge/amend/amount and form of financial assurance for an Environmental Authority	30	29

In accordance with Standing Order 182(6), information for the 2015-16 financial year has not been provided as to obtain and classify this data from this period would be an unreasonably onerous and complex task for the department.

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Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 5

Asked on Thursday, 28 June 2018

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Department of Environment and Science's SDS page 9 crocodile management service area highlight – will the Minister provide a detail breakdown of recorded crocodile incidents (in table format, per financial year since 2015, including individual numbers for: sightings; removals; euthanisations; attacks; aggressive incidents; property damage; livestock damage; human fatalities; human injuries and poaching incidents)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee Member for the question.

Detailed information about crocodile sightings and removals in Queensland is available on the Department of Environment and Science's CrocWatch webpage at www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/crocodiles/crocwatch/. CrocWatch provides details of crocodile management activities.

With respect to incidents involving allegations of unlawful poaching or the killing of crocodiles, the department investigates and responds to those incidents using its powers under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. The department does not hold data on these incidents for all the years requested, but the department did investigate eight suspected unlawful killings of crocodiles in 2017, often in cooperation with the Queensland Police Service. Three people were prosecuted for killing crocodiles in 2017.

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Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 6

Asked on Thursday, 28 June 2018

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Department of Environment and Science's SDS page 9 service area highlight to reverse the decline in koala population densities – will the Minister detail all recorded koala injuries and fatalities (in table format, per financial year since 2015, including local government area)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

Data is systematically collected on koalas taken to wildlife hospitals in south east Queensland, year by year.

Those records show the main reasons for koalas being taken into hospital care were: motor vehicle trauma; Chlamydia-like symptoms; and wasting and trauma caused by animal attack (primarily dogs).

Available data shows that the total number of koalas found and/or treated in Queensland for 2015 was 1,175; 1,146 in 2016; 968 in 2017; and 244 for 2018 (as at 2 July 2018).

The department is unable to provide a comprehensive breakdown of mortality and morbidity of each animal as this information is contained in individual internal wildlife hospital records

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No. 7

Asked on Thursday, 28 June 2018

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 9 of SDS: “Species and Ecosystem Protection Services”, will funds be available for the increased monitoring and management of the Noosa River to address the effluent, pollution from abandoned vessels and rubbish, as well auditing and monitoring of land and waterways in the Great Sandy National Park and surrounds, including the upper reaches of the Noosa River System?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The 2017 Healthy Land and Water Report card assessed Noosa’s overall environmental condition as excellent. This assessment is based on data collected through the Healthy Land and Water monitoring program. The program has consistently rated the Noosa River condition as very good to excellent since the program commenced in 2000. The monitoring program is ongoing.

This environmental condition is achieved in part by the environmental protections the Noosa catchment has in place including the Great Sandy National Park and also through the dedicated and collaborative efforts of the Noosa community and local government.

The Department of Environment and Science is currently undertaking an assessment of the key natural and cultural values of the Great Sandy National Park in preparing an updated management plan. The department is regularly addressing challenges in maintaining these key values including rubbish and pollution with a team of rangers focussed on management of the Great Sandy National Park (Cooloola Section).

The department also works with the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy to implement water monitoring programs to assess the quality of waterways in the Noosa region.

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Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 8

Asked on Thursday, 28 June 2018

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 4 of the SDS: Can the Minister outline the financial investment that Department of Environment and Science has made in the electorate of Noosa?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Department of Environment and Science (DES) has an operational base at Tewantin which supports the management of a number of national and conservation park areas across the Noosa Electorate and other electorates across the broader Sunshine Coast. Combined operational funding by the Queensland Government, through the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service management units within the Noosa Electorate for 2017-18 was \$2.61 million.

In addition to the operating budget for day to day management the Queensland Government, through the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, committed \$2.307 million in capital investment to revitalise national park infrastructure in the Noosa Electorate over the 2017-18 and 2018-19 financial years.

This funding will result in upgrades at Noosa National Park including an upgrade to the existing toilet facilities at Tea Tree Bay, a significant upgrade to the Alexandria Bay to North Sunshine Beach walking track, major enhancement works to the main visitor Day Use Area and the Laguna Lookout and enhancement work to a number of internal walking tracks.

South Cooloola projects within the Noosa Electorate include a waste dumping facility on the Noosa North Shore to manage sewage waste from the Teewah Beach camping zone and planned upgrades to several campsites on the upper Noosa River. Planning work for these projects is currently underway with construction activities expected to commence in late 2018.

The Community Sustainability Action grants program (CSA) is providing \$12 million over three years (from 2016-17 to 2018-2019) to eligible community groups and individuals for innovative projects which seek to address climate change, conserve Queensland's natural and built environment, and protect our unique wildlife. Eleven projects in the Noosa electorate were allocated a total of \$205,106 (ex GST) in funding under the CSA grant program. As at 20 July 2018, five projects were completed in 2017-18 and the other six are active in the 2018-19 financial year. These projects received funding for undertaking weeding and revegetation and to improve the eco-efficiency of recipient's facilities.

In addition to the CSA grants program, \$43,000 (ex GST) was allocated to Boomerang Alliance from Everyone's Environment grants program funding to support the organisation's 'Plastic Free Noosa' project, to engage the Noosa community to be proactive in reducing the use of single use plastic items in Noosa by a target of 50%. This project is ongoing and is expected to be completed in November 2018.

The Queensland Government has also formed a partnership between the State (DES and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries), Noosa Shire Council, Noosa Parks Association and HQPlantations Pty Ltd to convert Yurol State Forest and Ringtail State Forest to protected areas. DES has contributed significant resources to this project which will deliver important environmental, economic and social benefits to Queenslanders. The agreement is expected to be finalised early in the 2018-19 financial year.

Arts Queensland supported arts and cultural activities in the Noosa electorate through:

- the Regional Arts Development Fund, a partnership between the Queensland Government and Noosa Shire Council, with \$46,000 for the 2017-18 program; and
- the Individuals Fund, with a Noosa constituent awarded funding of \$8,594 in Round 2 of the 2017 Individuals Fund to support professional development activities in the field of developing and teaching dance classes for older people.

In addition, the State Library of Queensland provided the following grants to the Noosa Shire Council in 2017-18:

- Public Library Grant of \$233,325.71;
- First 5 Forever funding of \$46,439; and
- Tech Savvy Seniors Queensland funding of \$9,123.

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Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 9

Asked on Thursday, 28 June 2018

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 4 of the SDS: What work is the government doing to invest in, and protect, the Great Barrier Reef?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to protecting the Great Barrier Reef for future generations and has included it as one of the key Advancing Queensland priorities. We are investing a record \$330 million in the Reef over five years to boost joint management and improve water quality to make the Reef more resilient.

In the 2018-19 State Budget, the Government has allocated an additional \$39.8 million for the Reef, which includes \$13.8 million to improve water quality and \$26 million to expand the joint field management program.

Improving water quality remains a key priority for Reef protection, with over \$260 million committed through the Queensland Reef Water Quality Protection Program over five years. This additional boost will support agricultural industries in Reef catchments to more rapidly transition to practice standards that are known to limit the amount of nutrients and sediment in farm run-off, as well as sustain farm productivity and profitability.

Further detail of investment across the numerous program areas is set out in the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program five-year investment plan 2017-18 to 2021-22, which is available on the Queensland Government website www.qld.gov.au/environment/coasts-waterways/reef-program.

Within this year's budget, the joint field management program, delivered by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service in partnership with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, now has a total investment of \$70 million over five years. This boost will result in additional marine park rangers and officers delivering important on-ground management actions aimed at strengthening the Reef's resilience. This commitment by the Government gives the field management program unprecedented reach and presence into the marine park.

Other programs that contribute to protecting the Great Barrier Reef include the newly established Land Restoration Fund. This flagship \$500 million fund will facilitate and grow the emerging carbon farming industry to supply high quality carbon credits. The carbon credits will require demonstrable co-benefits such as improved water quality.

The Queensland Government also acted recently to reinstate vegetation management laws, increasing protection for high-value regrowth and remnant vegetation. This will help safeguard the health of the Great Barrier Reef by increasing protection of waterways leading to the Reef.

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Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 10

Asked on Thursday, 28 June 2018

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 4 of the SDS: How will the Land Restoration Fund help Queensland meet the challenges presented by Climate change?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

During the 2017 State Election the Palaszczuk Government made a visionary commitment to establish a \$500 million Land Restoration Fund. The Fund is the Government's flagship environmental commitment to directly support land sector carbon projects in Queensland, while creating new jobs in a growing industry.

The Government is responding to the challenges of climate change with a vision for an innovative and resilient Queensland that addresses the risks and harnesses the opportunities of a changing climate. This means facilitating the transition to a low carbon economy in a way that secures new jobs and industries as well as protecting our precious natural environment and supporting our communities as the economy and climate changes.

The \$500 million Land Restoration Fund will seek to support and grow the emerging carbon farming industry by facilitating a pipeline of eligible carbon offset projects that also deliver important environmental, social and economic co-benefits. The Land Restoration Fund will play a key role in economic transition and in building resilience in our natural systems to climate change impacts.

Already, Queensland landholders are contracted to supply the Australian Government over 76,800,000 carbon offsets, worth almost \$1 billion in revenue, between now and 2030.

We know that from analysis such as the 2017 Energetics Report on the carbon farming industry's potential, that up to \$8 billion could be generated by 2030 under certain policy and market conditions for Queensland's landholders. This is where the Land Restoration Fund can play a key role.

The aim is to leverage the growing demand for high quality carbon offsets, that is offsets that are credible with verifiable additional benefits like more koala habitat, improved water quality, greater agricultural and climate resilience, and enhanced biodiversity, to grow a new industry.

The Department of Environment and Science is working with Queensland Treasury to deliver this exciting new initiative.

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Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 11

Asked on Thursday, 28 June 2018

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 6 of the SDS: Will the Minister outline the steps taken by the Department to manage waste industry concerns expressed by the people of Ipswich?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is developing a comprehensive waste management strategy, underpinned by a waste levy, that will act as a price signal to encourage waste avoidance and resource recovery behaviour, and discourage disposal as the first option.

The LNP's repeal of the waste levy in 2012 robbed Queensland of the ability to invest in the waste and recycling industry, and left Queensland as the only mainland State without a levy. Ultimately, the previous Government's action resulted in numerous lost economic opportunities for Queensland's waste industry in terms of investment and employment, and made Queensland a cheap place to dump other state's rubbish.

The re-introduction of the levy will be instrumental in changing waste management practices in Queensland, including in Ipswich. It will help to drive down the massive volumes of waste going to landfills, especially from interstate.

In addition, it provides a revenue source which can be directed to invigorate growth in the recycling and resource recovery industries, provide more support for the waste industry to create jobs and facilitate greater investment certainty for businesses.

The levy will also complement other work underway by the Department of Environment and Science, which included an independent community survey of Ipswich residents about local odour and waste management. The survey confirmed a proportion of the community living around the Swanbank Industrial Area have concerns about odour and waste management.

In response to community concerns, the Palaszczuk Government has established the Odour Abatement Taskforce, a team of 10 specialist environmental officers, for a program to focus exclusively on matters of environmental concern raised in and around Swanbank.

This program will include detailed consideration of current industry regulation and practice, a review of environmental authority conditions against contemporary standards, engagement with industry stakeholders to encourage better practice environmental stewardship, an improved presence and proactive engagement with the community, and the deployment of cutting edge technologies to measure air, noise and water quality, to ultimately achieve improvements in the regulation of these environmental attributes.

The 12-month, \$2.5 million program will be complemented by existing initiatives underway, including an independently commissioned review of composting waste acceptance criteria, the development of a community reporting smartphone app, and the continuation of Operation TORA.

Operation TORA was deployed state-wide by the department in 2015 to target waste operators who are choosing not to comply with their environmental obligations. The department has conducted 648 waste operation investigations in the Ipswich area alone under Operation TORA which has resulted in significant enforcement outcomes, including for example, the recent prosecution of two Ipswich waste transporters where fines were imposed.

These current and proposed initiatives demonstrate that the department is continuing to take active steps to ensure that any potential impacts on the Ipswich community and environment from waste activities are either minimised or prevented.

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Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 12

Asked on Thursday, 28 June 2018

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 9 of the SDS: Can the Minister outline the work the Department of Environment and Science is doing to monitor, manage and address crocodiles in Queensland? Can the Minister outline regional examples to illustrate this work?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

Estuarine crocodiles (*Crocodylus porosus*) are protected in Queensland and are listed as a vulnerable species under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act). They are also listed as both a marine species and migratory species under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), and internationally under the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*. The Queensland Government's objective in managing estuarine crocodiles therefore, is to provide for public safety while respecting its conservation obligations under the relevant state, national and international legislation.

In 2017, the former Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, now Department of Environment and Science (DES) introduced an enhanced crocodile management program which has three complementary components:

1. *Crocodile management and response* – operation of a CrocWatch telephone service for receiving reports of crocodile sightings. As part of this service, DES investigates every crocodile sighting report received, installs temporary and permanent warning signs, removes 'problem crocodiles' when they pose a threat to public safety, and maintains a CrocWatch database available on the DES website at <https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/crocodiles/crocwatch/>;
2. *Risk reduction through the DES 'Crocwise' public education program* – DES delivers a public awareness program promoting safe behaviour by residents and visitors in crocodile habitat areas, in collaboration with stakeholders, including local governments and Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ); and

3. *Comprehensive monitoring of estuarine crocodile populations* – in 2017, DES began the three-year Queensland Crocodile Monitoring Program which will provide scientifically-sound information about any changes over time in crocodile populations at different places across the species range.

Preliminary results from the DES Crocodile Monitoring Program conducted in 2017 found average densities of crocodiles of less than one animal per kilometre. This is much lower than in the Northern Territory where average densities are between five and 10 crocodiles per kilometre. Detailed findings from the Queensland program will be published once monitoring is completed in 2020 and the results have been analysed by experts. These findings will be used to inform the development of crocodile conservation and management arrangements into the future.

DES seeks to protect public safety by investigating all reports to the CrocWatch service; proactively removing crocodiles in certain circumstances in accordance with Queensland Crocodile Management Plan (QCMP) protocols; and delivering an effective public education campaign to educate both locals and visitors to crocodile country on how they can behave to protect their own safety.

As an example of the work that DES is doing in particular regions of Queensland, on 13 July 2018, I announced a \$105,000 grant from the Palaszczuk Government to SLSQ to expand its involvement in the ‘Crocwise’ program, focussing on far north Queensland beaches at Mission Beach, ETTY Bay and others along the coast from Cairns to Four Mile Beach in Port Douglas.

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Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 13

Asked on Thursday, 28 June 2018

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 9 of the SDS: Can the Minister advise what the Palaszczuk Government is doing to support local governments to better manage flying fox roosts in urban areas?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Queensland Government is committed to providing a flying-fox roost management framework that is effective, based on sound science, and does not put Queensland's flying-fox populations at risk.

In Queensland, local governments have an as-of right authority under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* to use non-lethal measures in managing flying-fox roosts in urban flying-fox management areas provided they comply with the 'Code of Practice – Ecologically sustainable management of flying-fox roosts'. In addition, local governments have the option to apply to the department for a flying-fox roost management permit should it wish to conduct flying-fox roost management activities outside of a designated urban area or trial roost management techniques that are outside the Code of Practice.

In 2016, the Department of Environment and Science commenced the \$2.7 million Reduce Flying Fox Conflict Program 2016-2020. This includes a three-year scientific research program being conducted in collaboration with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), and other partners such as local governments, into flying-fox movements and behaviour. This research is gathering scientifically sound information to enhance our understanding of the factors influencing little red flying-fox behaviour as they move throughout the landscape. Part of the CSIRO's work also involves consultation with local governments to determine the effectiveness of various flying-fox roost management measures over past decades.

Funding has also been allocated within the program to support localised research and on-ground trials of ways to address local community concerns about the nuisance impacts of little red flying-fox influxes in Charters Towers. The results and outcomes of these programs could then be applied in other local government areas across Queensland.

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Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 14

Asked on Thursday, 28 June 2018

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 4 of the SDS: Will the Minister provide an update on progress of the Container Refund Scheme?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Container Refund Scheme starts on 1 November 2018 and will provide the opportunity for people around Queensland to take their empty eligible beverage containers to a refund point and receive a 10 cent refund.

The Queensland Government has appointed the beverage industry-based not-for-profit company Container Exchange (CoEx) to develop and run the scheme in Queensland.

Importantly, the scheme provides an enormous opportunity for community groups, schools and charities to participate.

The Department of Environment and Science and CoEx are working with Parent and Citizens Queensland to ensure schools maximise their opportunities to raise funds through the scheme.

In addition, there has been an overwhelmingly positive response from the not-for-profit sector wanting to run donation points so people can donate their 10 cent refund.

This is a great demonstration of the significant social and community benefits that the scheme will have.

Containers that are taken to a depot or bag drop refund point can be squashed and do not have to have intact labels. Containers that go through a Reverse Vending Machine will have to be whole.

A series of forums will be held around the state in the coming weeks to provide more information to community groups, schools and not-for-profit organisations about how to participate in the scheme.

Beverage manufacturer information sessions will also be held across the state and in capital cities in other states to provide beverage manufacturers with information about the scheme and their obligations ahead of the scheme commencing.

**INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 15

Asked on Thursday, 28 June 2018

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 4 of the SDS: Will the Minister advise about the impact of the China Sword Policy and actions the government is taking to grow jobs and develop a recycling industry in Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

China's National Sword Policy represents a significant challenge for the waste industry. The loss of a market for recyclables, such as mixed plastics and mixed paper, has resulted in difficulties finding end-markets for products and increased processing fees.

In addition to those challenges, the former LNP government's repeal of Queensland's waste levy in 2012 robbed our state of the opportunity to invest in the resource recovery industry in a way that would have enabled the industry to better absorb the impact of China's policy.

In light of these impacts, the Queensland Government is bringing forward the introduction of the waste disposal levy. As well as discouraging landfill, the levy will also provide funds to support local governments and the waste and recycling industry to develop local markets for recycled and recovered materials and establish the necessary infrastructure to provide on-shore domestic processing capacity.

The waste disposal levy underpins the implementation of a comprehensive new waste strategy. The new strategy will focus on transitioning Queensland towards a circular economy that facilitates the value and retention of waste products in the economy for as long as possible rather than the currently linear take—make—use—dispose approach. Waste disposed to landfill represents a lost economic opportunity and the levy will be instrumental in changing waste management behaviour and practices in Queensland.

To support development of Queensland's waste sector, the 2018-19 State Budget included a commitment of \$100 million over three years for a new Resource Recovery Industry Development Program. The Program is designed to support innovation and investment in recycling, assist new industries that manufacture products using recycled waste and create future jobs. The program will help support the establishment of infrastructure in regional areas and the creation of new jobs in the resource recovery and recycling sector. It has been estimated that, while every 10,000 tonnes of waste disposed into landfill supports less than three full time jobs, the same amount of waste being recycled supports more than nine jobs.

At a national level, we continue to work with the Australian Government and other jurisdictions to manage the impact of the China Sword policy. This is a national issue and I have been advocating for a national response. This issue was discussed at the interjurisdictional Meeting of Environment Ministers on 27 April 2018 with a series of outcomes agreed upon to reduce the generation of waste and ensure that Australia increases its recycling capacity and its demand for recycled products. Ministers agreed to the update of the 2009 National Waste Strategy by the end of the year which will include circular economy principles.

**INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 16

Asked on Thursday, 28 June 2018

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 4 of the SDS: Will the Minister outline work that is being undertaken to address legacy per and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contaminations?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

In July 2016, the Queensland Government led the way in PFAS management with the introduction of the Environmental Management of Firefighting Foam Policy. This Policy was the first of its kind in Australia and bans the future use of firefighting foams containing perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), following a three year transition period. DES has carried out a series of measures to raise awareness of the Policy and the environmental impacts of firefighting foam. These measures have included a firefighting foam seminar held in Brisbane in February 2017, the conduct of a state-wide industry survey in 2017 and an industry education program commenced in 2018.

The Queensland Government has adopted a proactive and risk-based approach to investigations and community engagement. While supporting open and transparent investigations, the Queensland Government expects that polluters and ‘responsible entities’ (including site owners and/or operators) will engage proactively with communities when there is any potential that they may be exposed to elevated levels of PFAS. It is expected that these entities will appropriately manage the risks associated with PFAS contamination and remediate sites where necessary.

The Queensland Government is working closely with the Australian Government, state government agencies, local governments and regulated industries to ensure residents and communities impacted by contaminated sites are kept up-to-date and safety responses are adequate.

DES is actively investigating a number of State regulated sites including port facilities at Gladstone, Mackay, Bundaberg and Townsville.

Port corporations are liaising with the Queensland Government to ensure full and transparent investigations into the extent of PFAS contamination found in on-site groundwater bores during routine voluntary sampling activities.

Local drinking water supplies have not been affected and free testing of residential bores within the vicinity of relevant Port sites have been offered.

The Queensland Government is working with responsible councils and other stakeholders in investigations at other regional locations including:

Bundaberg (Svensson Heights)

Bundaberg Regional Council and Gladstone Ports Corporation, with Queensland Government assistance, are working to identify the source of PFAS found at two separate sites in Bundaberg. Sampling undertaken in the week commencing the 9 April 2018 detected elevated levels of PFAS in properties served by Dr Mays Reservoir in the Svensson Heights area of Bundaberg. This affected bore was decommissioned on the 11 April 2018, and all reticulated water is now compliant with national water standards.

Bundaberg Regional Council informed the community as soon as reliable test results were received, in which time the affected bore had already been turned off and there was no increased risk to human health. Queensland Health has offered free blood testing to residents who have lived within the affected area.

Blood testing results so far have not varied significantly from national background levels, with many results being below these levels.

The Department of Environment and Science is concluding investigations into the source of contamination which involved further groundwater, soil and sediment sampling and door-knocking around 180 business operators in a nearby industrial estate.

The results of the investigations will be made available to the public on completion.

Ayr

The Queensland Government is assisting Burdekin Shire Councils investigation into the source of PFAS found in two bores that contributed to Ayr's reticulated water supply. Council decommissioned both bores on 25 May 2018, the same day that results were received from a wider water quality monitoring program. Ayr's town water supply has since been tested and is compliant with national water standards, and ongoing testing has confirmed this.

Ingham

On 11 July 2018 Hinchinbrook Shire Council received one sampling result which detected slightly elevated levels of PFAS in a Lucinda water storage tank. All other water supply tests at the time indicated this result was an anomaly. Hinchinbrook Shire Council undertook immediate retesting of nearby Macknade and Lucinda, and received these results on 16 July 2018, indicating that PFAS was present in the reticulated supply, slightly above drinking water guidelines, and that this was the result of one affected bore.

The bore was decommissioned on 16 July 2018 (same day), and council has flushed the Hinchinbrook Shire reticulation to remove all PFAS chemicals. Council released a media statement on 17 July 2018, and are now working with the Department of Environment and Science to determine the source of contamination.

Amberley

The Department of Defence (Defence) recently identified elevated levels of PFAS in seafood in Warrill Creek and the Bremer River, which are inside the RAAF Base Amberley PFAS investigation area. While these findings were preliminary and based on a small sample size, Queensland Health reviewed these results and advised the Department of Defence to inform the local community on 6 June 2018.

On Friday 8 June, Queensland Health's Chief Health Officer formally wrote to Defence requesting that Defence release the information to the community. Between 6 June and Friday 15 June the Queensland Government (Premier and Cabinet and Queensland Health) repeatedly requested senior Defence representatives to release the information to the community.

Under the Intergovernmental Agreement on a National Framework for Responding to PFAS Contamination (IGA), the polluter has a responsibility to "proactively engage with media in relation to new information, incidents and events whenever possible". On Friday 15 June, Queensland Health determined that the Department of Defence would not meet its nationally-agreed obligations to inform the local community, and so Queensland Health proactively released a media statement. The Queensland Government has also provided input into signage which has been erected at four locations along Warrill Creek and the Bremer River, having been determined considering information provided by the local community and fishing shops/organisations.

Further information on these sites is available on the Queensland Government PFAS website.

DES participates in an interdepartmental committee, led by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and comprises a number of Queensland Government departments, to provide a co-ordinated response to PFAS management.

DES has been actively involved in National PFAS strategic planning and management initiatives, including in the development and update of the Intergovernmental Agreement on a National Framework for Responding to PFAS Contamination and the PFAS National Environmental Management Plan. The intergovernmental agreement includes a contamination response protocol and information sharing, communication and engagement guidelines.

**INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 17

Asked on Thursday, 28 June 2018

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 14 of the SDS Will the Minister outline work being undertaken on the Statewide Landcover and Trees Study (SLATS)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Queensland Government is making a two-year commitment to a major scientific program to support an enhanced Statewide Landcover and Trees Study (SLATS). This will identify and report on the condition and extent of regrowth vegetation and inform habitat conservation.

The Queensland Government is a national leader in its use of satellite imagery for natural resource monitoring and policy implementation. Previous and current strategic investment in systems and expertise to acquire and utilise systematic and repeatable satellite data has underpinned the Government's evidence base for decision making, particularly through SLATS, for over 20 years. With the Palaszczuk Government's investment in satellite imagery, the launch of new higher resolution satellite sensors (such as Sentinel 2), continuity of existing long-term missions (such as Landsat), and significant advances in computing technology, there are new opportunities to enhance SLATS.

The program aims to capitalise on these opportunities and will address key requirements of the amended *Vegetation Management Act 1999* and stakeholder concerns regarding the assessment and monitoring of Queensland's vegetation. The program will develop the scientific methods and data to inform a reporting framework that provides more comprehensive accounting of woody vegetation. It will enhance the mapping of the extent of woody vegetation across the State; the monitoring of woody vegetation change by including regrowth monitoring (in addition to the reliable and peer reviewed clearing statistics generated through the existing SLATS); and the measurement and modelling of the condition and biodiversity values of Queensland's regional ecosystems.

The program will be based on best available science and will draw upon expertise in the Department of Environment and Science's Remote Sensing Centre and the Queensland Herbarium, as well as capacity and expertise in the Joint Remote Sensing Research Program based at the University of Queensland, and from other relevant technical experts.

A technical stakeholder group will be established to provide input and advice on the scientific and strategic direction of the program and to ensure stakeholder requirements are considered.

The Department of Environment and Science will work collaboratively with the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, and other key departments to ensure the design of the program integrates effectively with the Vegetation Management Framework, and other high priority government programs, such as the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan, Land Restoration Fund, Natural Resource Management Programs, fire management and local and regional planning. The Government is committed to providing the best evidence-based science to meet its legislative requirements, initiatives and associated policies.

**INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 18

Asked on Thursday, 28 June 2018

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the financial statements of the Queensland Art Gallery, Queensland Museum, Queensland Performing Arts Trust, and the State Library of Queensland in the 2018-19 Budget SDS (pages 46, 54, 61 and 69), could the Minister provide a detailed list of each of the grants and contributions that made up the 2017-18 Estimated Actual for each entity, as well as a separate detailed list of the grants and contributions expected to make up the 2018-19 Budget for each entity?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

Details of each of the grants and contributions detailed in the income statements for the Queensland Art Gallery, Queensland Museum, Queensland Performing Arts Trust, and the State Library of Queensland in the 2018-19 Budget SDS (pages 46, 54, 61 and 69) are listed in the tables below.

Details of 2017-18 Estimated Actual \$'000

Details of grants and contributions	Queensland Art Gallery	Queensland Museum	Queensland Performing Arts Trust	State Library of Queensland
Administered Grant	32,835	33,610	9,547	63,487
Other Queensland Government grants	100	6,465	-	570
Federal Government Grants	377	211	-	150
Other grants	-	775	-	-
Arts Queensland rent provided at below fair value	11,105	3,066	7,660	7,178
Other contributions (donations/sponsorship)	4,264	5,061	400	726
Total	48,681	49,188	17,607	72,111

Details of 2018-19 Budget \$'000

Details of grants and contributions	Queensland Art Gallery	Queensland Museum	Queensland Performing Arts Trust	State Library of Queensland
Administered Grant	32,935	28,696	10,595	64,626
Other Queensland Government grants	260	6,122	-	634
Federal Government Grants	300	-	-	150
Other grants	-	1,067	-	-
Arts Queensland rent provided at below fair value	10,904	3,066	7,813	7,178
Other contributions (donations / sponsorship)	6,472	5,270	265	720
Total	50,871	44,221	18,673	73,308

**INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 19

Asked on Thursday, 28 June 2018

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 16 of the SDS (service area highlights), could the Minister detail the number of successful applications that Backing Indigenous Arts - Performing Arts has had, the cost that each of these successful applications has been, and the number of Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander artists that have directly benefited from these successful applications?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

Backing Indigenous Arts – Performing Arts extends the Queensland Government’s Backing Indigenous Arts initiative, which for the past decade has focussed on visual arts.

The Queensland Government has committed \$2.1 million over two years from 2017-18 to strengthen the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performing arts sector in far north Queensland, including the development and showcase of new work and creation of career opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and arts workers.

Backing Indigenous Arts – Performing Arts opened in January 2018 and includes three funding streams:

- *New Commissions* — funds up to \$150,000 per applicant (matched by the applicant) to support the commissioning and presentation of new performing arts work by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists;
- *Producer Placements* — funds up to \$35,000 per applicant (matched by the applicant) to support early career Indigenous producers gain industry roles; and
- *Next Stage* — funds up to \$150,000 over two years per applicant to support emerging Indigenous performing arts organisations to strengthen their business.

There have been eight successful applicants for Backing Indigenous Arts – Performing Arts *Producer Placements* and *Next Stage* funding. Total funding to these eight successful applicants is \$726,089.

Approximately 25 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts professionals will be directly employed through the eight successful Backing Indigenous Arts – Performing Arts applications, and more artists and arts workers will directly benefit through related employment and professional development opportunities.

Applications for Round 1 of *New Commissions* funding closed on 26 April 2018, with successful applicants to be announced in the near future.

**INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 20

Asked on Thursday, 28 June 2018

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 16 of the SDS: Can the Minister outline the investments the Palaszczuk Government is making in arts infrastructure in Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government's strong support for the arts sector is demonstrated with \$145.8 million over the next four years dedicated to the Queensland Cultural Centre, South Bank to ensure Queensland provides the highest quality venues for Queenslanders and visitors alike.

New funding committed to the Queensland Cultural Centre includes:

- \$125 million over four years towards a new performing arts theatre at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC);
- \$8.5 million over two years for maintaining essential services and infrastructure, including two new cooling towers within the Central Energy Plant, Queensland Cultural Centre;
- \$9 million over three years to introduce sustainability initiatives and energy efficiency measures such as LED lighting across the Queensland Cultural Centre; and
- \$3.3 million over two years for critical works at QPAC such as new digital infrastructure.

The importance of high quality arts infrastructure in regional areas is also recognised in this budget with \$8 million (over two years) to support the Rockhampton Regional Council's plans for a new \$31.5 million art gallery (subject to confirmation of a \$10 million contribution by the Federal Government). This follows a \$2 million investment by the State in 2017-18 to support the planning for the gallery.

The Government, through the Department of Housing and Public Works, is also providing support for Queensland Ballet's home at the Thomas Dixon Centre, West End to be redeveloped with a \$14 million (over two years) investment that will enable the company to realise its growth ambitions.

The Palaszczuk Government has a strong and ongoing commitment to invest in arts and cultural experiences that captivate audiences across the State.

I recently wrote to Federal Minister for the Arts Mitch Fifield and called on him to increase Federal funding for the Arts in Queensland. Queensland has 20 per cent of Australia's population, but only receives approximately 9 per cent of the funding available through the Australia Council for the Arts.

The LNP should urge its federal colleagues to ensure Queensland has a fair share of Arts funding.