

SHORT TERM LETS QON & RESPONSE

Ms BOLTON: Minister, regarding the department's objective to promote the long-term growth of the tourism industry, would you update us on the progress for the short-term lets code of conduct, to finalise the ongoing requests from councils, industry and residents regarding this, which continues to cause ongoing anger and unrest?

Ms JONES: I thank the member for Noosa. I know that the member for Noosa is a strong advocate for her local community in this regard. I appreciate, as we have spoken about in the past, that Noosa is feeling the brunt of this expanded industry. This is part of the issue when you are delivering record growth in tourism, as we are on the Sunshine Coast, for example. Under the Newman government the industry was worth around \$2 billion. It is now worth almost \$3 billion under our watch. As I have said previously in the parliament, we are working through these issues with the many stakeholders who have varying views about the way forward. The honourable member would be well aware that the Noosa council is already looking to amend its own planning scheme to limit the locations where peer-to-peer sharing is allowed. We found through the discussions at the peer-to-peer round table that there are a lot of powers already under the Local Government Act that enable local councils to deliver this.

One of the key things we heard from the industry reference group was that it did not want one-size-fits-all. Certainly, my concern is where you have communities—I have spoken about this in the past—in the outback. When you have major events like we have just had, the Big Red Bash in Birdsville, they need the additional accommodation to cater for the people. Airbnb has enabled those events to grow. My issue is that this is a national problem. We are seeing the states coming up with different solutions. I know that New South Wales has been grappling with this for some years and they have not got any better solutions. I can confirm today that I have written to Simon Birmingham to say that we need a national discussion of tourism ministers on this. The latest advice I received yesterday is that Estimates—Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the senior officers—directors-general—from all states and territories who are meeting next week will be discussing how we can go forward with a framework that is consistent for operators across the country. I think there is a real fear in the states going it alone and creating a patchwork of regulation when we should have consistent regulation across the country. That discussion and meeting is happening next week. I am very pleased to talk to the member for Noosa about the outcome of that and certainly make her views known at the tourism ministers' meeting in Cairns coming up soon.

KATIE ROSE COTTAGE QON & REPSONSE

Ms BOLTON: My question is to the minister. I refer to page 6 of the SDS, which refers to the need for alternative care settings to reduce the growing demand for public hospital services. As a matter of urgency will the minister please commit to partner fund with our not-for-profit Katie Rose hospice from the \$17 million announced in the budget for community based palliative care? This fully-accredited 24/7 facility has lovingly provided end-of-life care to 30 Noosa residents in recent months and has, as of this week, had to suspend its services indefinitely due to a lack of funding assistance. This is unacceptable to our community and those who wish to pass at home in our community and not be sent elsewhere.

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Noosa for her question. I know this is a matter that we have discussed previously. I want to thank the staff and volunteers of Katie Rose Cottage for their commitment to caring for people on the Sunshine Coast who are approaching the end of life. That is

why the Palaszczuk government was pleased to provide the cottage with a one-off funding allocation of \$110,000 to help it achieve accreditation and improve governance. NGOs currently receiving government funding to deliver community palliative care are mostly located in South-East Queensland, with two of the eight services on the Sunshine Coast. The Sunshine Coast HHS also provides inpatient palliative care at Dove Cottage, a 10-bed facility in the grounds of the Caloundra hospital. Mr McARDLE: It is a wonderful facility.

Dr MILES: It is a wonderful facility. A key finding of the recent palliative care services review—Which I think we organised a briefing on for the member for Noosa—was a need for better access to Palliative care services right across Queensland. As a result, we allocated \$17 million in the budget to increase access to community palliative care, especially in rural and remote areas. Given that many of the services provided by Katie Rose Cottage have a primary healthcare focus, they may wish also to seek further funding from the federal government. Member for Noosa, I was not aware of that recent change to the services at Katie Rose. I am happy to undertake to discuss with the director-general how Katie Rose can bid for some of that \$17 million allocation.

Ms BOLTON: Just to confirm, I did notify the department so they were fully aware of the urgency of this situation. It was the passing of Cassie that they were waiting for, and sadly that has happened. As I said, this is a matter of urgency. I would like your commitment.

Dr MILES: I am very sorry to hear that, member for Noosa. As I said, we have funding allocated in the budget for services like Katie Rose. The last discussion we had was about getting the accreditation and the committee governance up to a standard where we could be confident in funding them. I have not had an update on where that work is up to. Certainly, provided we can achieve that level of confidence, there should be an opportunity for Katie Rose to seek some of those funds. I am happy to work with you to see if we can achieve that.

Ms BOLTON: That is wonderful. Thank you.

PREMIER AUDIT OF STATE LAND QON & REPSONSE

Ms BOLTON: Premier, in the interest of whole-of-government approaches and better outcomes for Queensland, would you give an undertaking to initiate an audit of surplus or underutilised state land or facilities throughout all departments to identify affordable housing or facilities for not-for-profit programs and initiatives including Containers for Change? This is to meet the urgent needs of Queenslanders. They are just a couple of examples. We really need a much better way of identifying and accessing these sites.

Ms PALASZCZUK: My understanding is that the Department of Housing and Public Works does keep a register of land. I also know from my local community that sometimes they will sell an older house and use that money to reinvest in a new block of land to build units, for example. There is a growing ageing population. There is now a higher demand for one-bedroom and two-bedroom units as opposed to three-bedroom and four-bedroom houses, especially in areas where those demographics are increasing. I know that the department of housing is working with other agencies as well to identify other areas. It is something that we are committed to, especially with our massive investment into our Housing Strategy. That is a 10-year framework that is driving key reforms and targeted investment across housing. I think the member for Noosa might be aware that we have also hit a big roadblock with the federal government. In the past we have been able to work with the federal government when it came to remote Indigenous housing. However, because of the roadblock they put in place, where basically it is now ending, we will not be able to build that extra housing. My understanding is that the Minister for Housing and Public Works has brought forward

some funding to make sure there will not be an end to that happening in the remote parts of our state. Of course, it is a bit more expensive to build in more remote regions of our state.

We will continue to work. I am quite sure that the Minister for Public Works will be able to elaborate more on the processes that they go through in terms of identifying land to build additional housing.

Ms BOLTON: I will go back to my original question about an audit. The reason I ask is that for 18 months we have been in between departments trying to search for land, yet we then find parts identified in one department. There is supposed to be a collaboration between departments but neither knows what is going on and who has the land. That is why I asked for an audit, so it can be brought together so that every department, including the department of housing, actually knows where that land is.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I think from memory the Minister for State Development through Economic Development Queensland has the authority to talk to different agencies that may need requirements, whether that is to build a sporting structure or to build housing.

Ms BOLTON: Thank you.

STATE AAA RATING QON & RESPONSE

Ms BOLTON: Treasurer, I refer to page 4 of the Queensland Treasury Service Delivery Statements regarding the monitoring, forecasting and measuring of the state's economic performance. Can the minister advise of the strategy and time frame to return Queensland to a AAA credit rating to save the state government, as well as councils across Queensland, the additional interest charges incurred under the current AA rating?

Ms TRAD: I think this is a very important question. Our credit rating standing is incredibly important and it is something that this government takes very seriously. Recently, what we have seen in commentary from all of the ratings agencies is reference to our wealthy economy and to the strong management of our finances, and also the view that our debt levels are manageable.

We do know that, in terms of all of the other jurisdictions in Australia, because there is such an absence of investment and leadership from the federal Liberal-National government in infrastructure right across the country, many of the state jurisdictions are actually carrying the burden of investment responsibility. We have seen Victoria's general government sector debt levels predicted to grow quite considerably. We have seen that in Western Australia and in New South Wales in their most recent budgets. It is the state jurisdictions that are doing the heavy lifting when it comes to using debt and borrowings to fund critical infrastructure projects. That is a particularly common feature right across the nation.

With many of the projects that the federal government have announced they will invest in in terms of their \$100 billion 10-year Infrastructure Investment Program, for Queensland much of it will not materialise for four to five years or even longer. That means that state jurisdictions have to step in and fill that gap and bear the burden of delivering critical projects, for example the M1. On the two key projects that we are pursuing we will not see the money from the federal government until 2023-24. That is a long way off. The Reserve Bank Governor suggested that the federal government should accelerate some of that money and should look at investing that money faster in order to stimulate the economy, because of, as we know, historically low interest rates. Our interest rates have never been this low. We have economic growth at GFC levels. The Reserve Bank Governor was saying that the federal government needed to step in and needed to accelerate their investment. Unfortunately, they have been pretty silent on that front.

However, it is very important to know that our debt levels are sustainable. They are stable. That has been reflected in the commentary from the ratings agencies. In fact, we have seen our relative debt

burden decrease since the previous LNP government. The cost of our borrowings used to be 4.7 per cent of revenue. It is now down to 2.8 per cent as a proportion of our revenue. That means that we are servicing that debt very well and within our revenue at a reasonable level. However, it is allowing us to borrow to build the hospitals, the schools and the roads that we need going forward.

I note that in the member's own electorate we are doing quite a number of things such as the Sunshine Beach State High School, with a \$5.2 million allocation for 13 more learning spaces; the Lake McDonald dam safety upgrade; the Coolum replacement police facility; the Eumundi State School; and the Nambour Hospital, with \$10.2 million in this financial year out of more than \$86 million in total to meet the functional requirements of the hospital. Some of this has been funded from our operating surpluses, but some of it has been funded through borrowings. As I said at the beginning, this is not unique to Queensland. It is what other jurisdictions are doing. We are particularly doing it because we have seen the Commonwealth withdraw their investment.

Ms BOLTON: To clarify, we do not have a time frame or any plan to get back to that AAA credit rating?

Ms TRAD: We could do it really quickly and do it through significant austerity measures and through stopping our building program, but that is not what we are doing. A headlong rush back to a AAA credit rating would be a sledgehammer to our economy. We saw that under the Newman LNP government. We took a long time to rebuild frontline services to get the economy humming again. It took a long time. However, we are there now and it is important that we stay the course. As I said, budgets are about choices. Either we could have chosen our AAA credit rating or we could have chosen jobs for Queenslanders. It is absolutely about jobs for Queenslanders.

WORKS FOR QUEENSLAND QON & RESPONSE

Ms BOLTON: Yes, thank you. My question is to the minister. I refer to page 2 of the Service Delivery Statements of the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs in relation to extending the Works for Queensland program. Further to the member for Warrego's questions, minister will you commit to looking at the methodology and criteria for determining eligibility? The Noosa council gets a double whammy. It is not eligible for Building our Regions either whereas the Somerset, Lockyer and Scenic Rim regional councils are. It would help these four councils to understand why they are being excluded from the Works for Queensland program.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Obviously when Works for Queensland was established by the Palaszczuk government as the signature program for delivering, supporting and working with regional councils across the state the commitment was made around those 65 councils that were eligible. It excluded the areas in the South East Queensland Regional Plan area, which, as you appreciate, includes Noosa and the other councils that you have made mention of.

That is the program that has existed and has delivered handsomely and fantastically for those communities. It is important that we celebrate that program. We need to acknowledge that it is a program, even in its current form, that would be on the chopping block if, heaven forbid, we saw an LNP government back here in Queensland. With the cut, sack and sell agenda this would be high on the cut agenda on the basis of their stated policies at the moment.

Let me come to your question. Your question relates to making commitments about the future of Works for Queensland. The commitment I can make to you is the one that I stated in response to the shadow minister's question. I commit to making sure that we make sure that that program works best for Queensland into the future and it works best for local government into the future.

Estimates—Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs Works for Queensland is a great example of the way in which the Palaszczuk government has worked closely with the local government sector—local governments right across Queensland and the Local Government Association of Queensland. It is a favourite program of those local governments that have access to it. Clearly, it is a program that other local governments would love to have access to as well. What I commit to is making sure that we continue to ensure that this signature program that delivers so handsomely and fantastically for regional Queensland is considered, reconsidered and improved in as many ways as we can to ensure that it continues to support high-quality, sustainable and effective local government that delivers the needs of communities' right across the state. Let me assure you that I make that commitment that we will continue to look at how we can improve it.

EDUCATION QONS & RESPONSE

Ms BOLTON: I have two quick questions to the minister, and I am quite happy with short answers or it can be taken on notice because we are running out of time. I refer to page 5 of the SDS relating to Teaching Queensland's Future strategy. Within the \$136 million budgeted for this strategy, will the concerns of teachers regarding rural accommodations, mentoring and extra time needed for programming, as examples, be addressed to improve the teacher retention statistics in Queensland?

Ms GRACE: My understanding is that all of those will form part of this and all of those issues are taken into account. There is additional funds, as I said, in the regional and remote strategy at the same time which also is about accommodation and looking at issues that are raised and assisting them with learning and wellbeing, workforce planning, attraction, talent management and capability. All of those are all part of that funding. If there are any schools that require anything additional, please let me know and we can pass it on to these heads of department here and they will be happy to implement anything that is required.

Ms BOLTON: Fantastic. My next question refers to page 2 of the SDS and the government's objective to keep Queenslanders healthy. Given the urgency to address statistics relating to anxiety and obesity in our school-age children, what requested increases, if any, in funding will be made available for successful programs such as Life Education and our localised Sunshine Coast Individualised Learning and Support?

Ms GRACE: The budget is there in relation to those additional services that schools require, and often it is a combination of schools coming together in clusters, which is one of the requirements for certain programs, where they work together about how they can extend those wellbeing programs and those engagement programs and healthy eating and all of those types of things that can be rolled out in schools. A number of applications have come in for programs. I do not think that there is a day that I do not get a meeting with someone who has a wonderful program that they would like to introduce to a school which is along the lines of your questioning.

Quite clearly we have experts on panels and there is an expert panel in your area in particular, for example, that looks at the applications that come in. The programs that are looked at are peer reviewed. They look at the benefit to the school. Schools often commit to get the value by putting in additional funding from their sources and then they provide what they believe is necessary for their areas. We do not dictate it, but I know, member for Noosa, there is a wide variety of programs that are available to schools to be implemented on a case-by-case basis.

Ms BOLTON: Just to clarify, have there been increases?

Ms GRACE: I am not sure whether there have been increases, but the increase in funding for your area is an operational matter and maybe the director-general might be better with those specific amounts.

Ms BOLTON: Can you just take that on notice so we can move on?

Ms GRACE: Yes, we can do that and we can get some funding arrangement to you, but I know that there has been no reduction in funding. More people want to have some of these services—more schools—but my understanding is that there has been no reduction. I am sure there would be a slight increase across-the-board but I am just not sure exactly what that figure is, but if you would like that figure for your specific area we are happy to provide it.

Ms BOLTON: Thank you.

NDIS FUNDING GAP QON & RESPONSE

Ms BOLTON: Minister, I refer to page 6 of the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors Service Delivery Statements regarding the cost of NDIS infrastructure and services, and further on from comments and questions by other members, could the minister please outline the approach the department is taking with the federal government to address the issues being experienced associated with the cost of providing infrastructure, including hubs and centres, for our Queenslanders with all abilities who are not accommodated within the NDIS funding structure, as well the expensive audit fees and case management costs for these NDIS approved service providers?

CHAIR: That is a big question.

Ms BOLTON: It is a big question. It is a big subject.

Mrs O'ROURKE: If I can take a moment to clarify, in relation to the infrastructure, are you referring to accommodation?

Ms BOLTON: I am talking also about the hubs. We have within my community Sunshine Butterflies. They are providing facilities, transport and buses and that is not included in any form within the NDIS funding structure. Literally you have to fundraise and sausage sizzle your way through to provide those for our all-abilities sector.

Mrs O'ROURKE: I thank the member for the question. I acknowledge your passion for your community. This is a very important part moving forward. Firstly, if I can address the infrastructure side of things. As just mentioned in the previous answer to the member for Maiwar, accommodation is a huge issue for people with disability. We do have a shortage and there has to be a significant focus. I am pleased that the federal government has made a commitment to work more broadly in this space to make sure that they are supporting the development of the market moving forward. We can also work more closely with our organisations to ensure that part of the infrastructure work that we as a government do is adhering to obviously all the laws and regulations around accessibility and the Disability Services Act itself. This is actually all about working with community and identifying some of the things I referred to in my opening remarks such as the creation of an All Abilities Queensland. Until we actually start focusing on that we are not actually truly going to be able to deliver in all areas.

We have done a lot of work across agencies. I am very pleased that a lot of the relevant ministers have made a commitment to ensure that everything they do is done through the lens of accessibility and inclusion. We are seeing the delivery of enhancements to train stations, the delivery of design work around new community centres and making sure that they are fully accessible and that being in the forefront of everyone's mind. We are starting to see a lot of work around that. Obviously, of

course, more work needs to be done and I am very pleased to say that is the focus of everyone that I speak to these days. There is a lot of work that needs to be done at all levels of government, but also how do we support communities moving forward and that is part and parcel of All Abilities Queensland, as well as the new part of the agency, Disability Connect Queensland.

Ms BOLTON: That will include obviously those existing facilities because we have had one close down, and I will write to you about that because I have great concerns. I have 110 people with disability who have been on a 10-year waitlist for accommodation and that particular site was for accommodation for disabilities and what I am frightened of is that it is not going to be utilised as such.

Mrs O'ROURKE: I am more than happy to take that matter up. As I said, this is a matter that I have raised with the federal government ever since originally coming into this role. In relation to specialist disability accommodation in Queensland alone, we have about 2,000 houses that need to be built to accommodate people with disability.

At the moment we are exploring from a Queensland perspective with the Department of Housing and Public Works and Treasury how Queensland can work in this space. In the past we have had the Elderly Parent Carer Initiative that has provided some support, where we have worked with community organisations to partner and deliver accommodation facilities. We still have a long way to go. As I said, we are working on a solution from our perspective, but we really need the federal government to step up in this space.

EMERGENCY ACCOM QON & RESPONSE

Ms BOLTON: I direct my question to the minister. You talked previously about bail advocacy and finding suitable accommodations. Will the minister please advise what is being done regarding the lack of emergency and longer term accommodation on the Sunshine Coast not only for those who are under bail conditions but also at risk youth and our youth in general?

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for her question. I note there has been quite some media attention around youth crime on the Sunshine Coast. We have a number of services to deal with youth offending on the Sunshine Coast. In fact, I have just been handed some information about that. One of the programs that members have heard me talk about today and also on a number of other occasions is Transition 2 Success. That helps vulnerable and at risk young people into training and employment. It is made available through the Sunshine Coast Youth Justice Centre. This is part of an expansion we have made in this budget of \$28.7 million over four years. The really important thing about T2S is that our evaluation shows us that it actually reduces reoffending. I said earlier that whatever we do in youth justice, we need to know it is based on evidence. I have been very pleased that several of our programs, in particular ones we started quite early on after evaluation, are actually making a difference. T2S is one such example; 60 per cent of the young people who go through T2S do not reoffend. Of the remainder who do reoffend, there is an average of 1.1 nights spent in custody compared to a matched cohort who would spend an average of 3.6 nights in custody. It has a cost-benefit return of something like \$2.37.

It is just the sort of initiative we need to make the difference. We simply do not want to see those young people coming back. A really effective way of changing those numbers, including changing the numbers of young people going into watch houses and detention, is to stop them coming back again.

That is one that is on the Sunshine Coast.

We also have the bail order and support services, which is provided by the Youth Advocacy

Centre, and that is funded for just over \$900,000 a year to 30 June 2023. That provides the bail support that I was talking about before to young people across the Moreton region, including young people on the Sunshine Coast. That again makes sure that if those young people having had—and this is where Estimates—Child Safety, Youth, Women and Domestic and we start to see the continuum of services we are providing—the bail advocacy to convince the magistrate that that young person can be safely allowed out on bail, the bail support services then ensure that that young person can meet their bail conditions. That is anything from finding them accommodation to linking them up with the support services they need. As the member would know, many of those young people simply have no structure in their lives and find it difficult to meet their conditions because they have never had to do that before.

These services are really important. I want to stress that they are not just about managing that, but about the young person not getting back into the system. That is where the pressure is applied: when we see the young people coming back repeatedly.

Ms BOLTON: I really appreciate that, but my question was about accommodation. The problem is if there is no accommodation to which they can be sent. Is anything being done to actually provide accommodation?

Ms FARMER: Specifically for the Sunshine Coast I will have to get back to you. If those young people are on dual orders, Child Safety will work with our youth justice workers. There is a lot of pressure on placement, but we have a range of initiatives in place. In fact, there is a particular project team whose job it is to increase placement opportunities for young people in that particular situation. I will have to get back to the member about specific services on the Sunshine Coast, though.

TOURISM INDUSTRY REBRAND QON & RESPONSE

Ms BOLTON: My question is to the minister. Regarding the department's objective of facilitating a strategic whole-of-government approach, given that staff are a vital asset, would the minister please advise what strategies interdepartmentally the government is undertaking to assist the industry to rebrand its jobs including hospitality as long-term career options versus the casualisation of jobs which is impacting not only the industry but the employers and the employees?

Ms JONES: Thank you, member for Noosa. I know that this is an issue that you are very concerned about, particularly around the displacement of workers as housing prices continue to grow in your community. We as a government understand that we need to invest in the next generation of tourism workers. That is why my colleague Minister Shannon Fentiman, in a whole-of-government approach, has enabled year 12 students to have access to one free TAFE course at the completion of year 12. That includes doing further study in the tourism industry. We have worked very closely with operators across Queensland to promote that school leavers can access free TAFE training in regard to tourism studies.

In addition to that, one of the things I am very proud of is our Young Tourism Leaders, which is something I launched a number of years ago where we have young tourism industry workers—under 25 or around that—who are already forging very successful careers in tourism now visiting schools right across Queensland to talk to the next generation of students to say, 'Why don't you join the tourism industry?'

The other thing we did is put Daniel Gschwind on the Jobs Queensland Board because, through the investment government is making, we expect to continue to see a growth in tourism jobs. We have released a tourism jobs plan through Jobs Queensland. That is a direct consequence of our government putting Daniel Gschwind, who as everyone knows is the CEO of the Queensland Tourism

Industry Council, on our Jobs Queensland Board. We are working hand in glove with the tourism industry to promote tourism jobs and the skilling and training of the next generation of tourism operators. I also want to acknowledge the Star group, who are delivering Queen's Wharf. They have been working in partnership with TAFE to train up what will be around 8,000 operational jobs going forward at Queen's Wharf. These will be permanent jobs with good wages and conditions. We will be creating new pay packets for Queenslanders as a direct result of that investment.

INCREASED TOURISM IMPACTS QON & RESPONSE

Ms BOLTON: Thank you, Mr Chair. My question is to the minister. With reference to page 3 of the SDS and the whole-of-government approach to planning and investment, would the minister please outline what interdepartmental and external innovations and innovative strategies are being implemented to manage our increased tourism? Does this include transport options, waste management and worker accommodation? As the minister knows, we have our Gubbi Gubbi—Kabi Kabi—coming from Cherbourg home to Noosa to work in tourism projects and they are going to need accommodations as well.

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question, and she is quite right in saying that what stands us apart is that we understand that innovation does not happen in a silo; it has to happen across all different portfolios. The way we have structured the Advance Queensland program means that there are nine ministers and nine departments that are responsible for individual projects. When it comes to innovation in housing policy, that absolutely sits with the Minister for Housing and Public Works.

I recently met with a fantastic company called Igloo during the last parliamentary sitting—it could have been before—and they are absolutely coming up with processes to make it easier for the private sector to deliver housing, particularly for those who are struggling to afford accommodation. Our focus very much and part of the work that I am doing through the review of the Advance Queensland policy is to align our Advance Queensland spending with the priorities of the government. Advance Queensland priorities, as articulated by the Premier, absolutely draw out the fact that we understand that homelessness and housing is an ongoing requirement. I would be expecting that, as we rollout the new strategy, there will be more focus on innovative solutions to housing outcomes.

Ms BOLTON: Fabulous. Thank you.

GBR QON & RESPONSE

Ms BOLTON: Minister, with reference to strengthening reef regulations and health on page 6 of the SDS, what funding has been allocated to purchase vulnerable areas within the Great Barrier Reef catchment as part of the strategy to decrease sediment run-off and assist in reaching reef water quality targets as well as add to the target of 17 per cent of conservation lands by 2021? Is this achievable given that this budget's target is 8.25 per cent of lands?

CHAIR: Member for Noosa, I understand that you are enthusiastic about this topic. You have asked a very lengthy question. I will allow the minister an opportunity to respond, but I invite the minister to respond on the basis that it is a lengthy question with a number of components.

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Noosa for her question and her passion for the Great Barrier

Reef, in particular ensuring we are giving the reef the best possible chance to withstand the impacts of climate change. We know that climate change is the No. 1 risk to the Great Barrier Reef, but, of course, the second greatest risk regards water quality. That is why there has been an investment from this government, working with landholders, to reduce sediment and nutrient run-off to provide the best opportunity for the reef to withstand climate change impacts.

This government has already acted in this space. For instance, we acquired Springvale Station in 2016 to have some impact around the kind of sediment run-off we were seeing in that catchment area. To be clear, there is obviously legislation before the House so I will not go any further into other measures regarding the protection of the reef through reef regulations.

The final part of the question concerned protected areas. Since the Palaszczuk government came to office we have seen an increase of one million hectares in protected area estate. As I understand it, the amount of protected area that we now have is two times the size of Tasmania. Of course, we continue to see opportunities for that to expand. The introduction of a new category of protected area—special wildlife reserve—is another opportunity to extend and expand our protected area estate in Queensland.

PROTECTED AREA STRATEGY QON & REPONSE

[Ms BOLTON: Minister, I refer to page 11 of the SDS regarding the protected area strategy. What funding increases will be made available to organisations that are involved at a grassroots level in protecting our threatened species and biodiversity, as this is a key concern of not-for-profits and volunteers, including the Great Barrier Reef hearings?](#)

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Noosa for the question and acknowledge her passion for biodiversity. She lives in a part of the state that is home to some incredible native species and great biodiversity. Of course, we have seen some great examples of how local council, community organisations and state government can work together to expand habitat for protected species or threatened species such as the koala. Being able to add some, I think, 2,500 hectares—or around that amount—to the protected area estate in the fashion that we saw with the local council, a local community organisation and the state government was a great example of how to work together to ensure that we are protecting species and biodiversity.

There are bodies of work underway currently to establish a biodiversity strategy and a threatened species strategy. Those two bodies of work will inform our operations and practices into the future. However, the 2019-20 budget that we are debating now includes \$11.3 million that has been allocated to enable the department to progress priority acquisitions for protected areas in southern Queensland, for instance. That obviously will go some way in terms of securing and ensuring that biodiversity is upheld in those areas.

On top of that, the Land Restoration Fund will deliver co-benefits in this space, including habitat rehabilitation. There is an anticipation in that space. Also, there is \$1.5 million for the Community Sustainability Action—Protecting Queensland's Threatened Species funding scheme, where you will see individual grants of up to \$100,000. There are a number of projects that support this work, but, of course, the overarching two bodies of work that will be very significant in this space—the biodiversity strategy and the threatened species strategy—will play an important part into the future.

MINING REHAB COMMISSIONER QON & RESPONSE

Ms BOLTON: My question is to the minister. I refer to page 6 of the SDS regarding the appointment of the mining rehabilitation commissioner. Minister, can you advise when the commissioner will be appointed? Will their role include assessing current sites that have not been rehabilitated and also the construction of a time line and strategy to do so?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. Of course, it was a commitment of the Palaszczuk government to explore this avenue. There is a body of work that is happening currently to finalise a discussion paper for that particular model to make sure that we have it right. There is further work being done in that space and further consideration by government is to come with regard to the question that you posed.

QCAT/QBCC FUNDING QON & RESPONSE

Ms BOLTON: My question is to the minister. I refer to page 49 of the Department of Justice SDS regarding the resolution of services. Minister, can you advise when an increase in funding will be made available for community legal centres to address shortfalls and for an extension of services to provide for WorkCover and other exclusions?

Mrs D'ATH: I know that the member for Noosa is as passionate as I am about community legal centres and the great work they do. The state government advocated very strongly last year with the Commonwealth that we needed to see certainty in the federal budget. The current national partnerships agreement expires on 30 June next year, and we did not want to see another funding cliff like we saw last time, so I was very pleased that we were able to see funding in the 2019 federal budget.

Having said that, we still do not have the detail of what Queensland's financial component is going to be. We know what the total funding is across the country. We do not know how much Queensland is going to get and we do not know what the criteria are going to be for the use of that funding. What we have had in the past is a narrowing of what that funding can be used for, which means that organisations which otherwise previously were able to access funding then could not because they did not fall within that narrow definition.

Also there is a change in the way the Commonwealth is providing their funding. They are now not proposing to fund the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service directly and they want the states to administer that as well. There is a real concern—and I absolutely support that concern of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service—that over time their funding will be diminished because they are being put into a bigger pool and they will not necessarily have that standalone funding.

We are still working through those issues. I know that ATSILS would rather see their funding still being done directly to them through the Commonwealth.

As far as the state's component, we have increased our funding in the sense that we have previously had the core funding that has been provided to CLCs and then we have been providing additional temporary funding for other services, particularly those that go to DV. I am very proud to say that in this year's budget that is no longer temporary funding. We have increased our core funding to make that additional funding permanent going forward so we can give certainty to CLCs that they have that funding and they do not have to worry each year whether that is going to be there or not.

We have a lot of work still to do to make sure that we are supporting our CLCs. I know they would like more funding. I understand that. There is a Commonwealth Productivity Commission report that says CLCs need more funding, but we need to work with the Commonwealth. We cannot do all of the carrying ourselves. In fact, our contribution versus the Commonwealth's contribution has grown. Over the years Queensland is putting more and more in. We are not seeing the same from the Commonwealth. I really want to see the Commonwealth step up and provide more support to our community legal centres so we can collectively work together to provide the support they need, because we know they support the most vulnerable in our community.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT QON & RESPONSE

Ms BOLTON: Minister, I refer to page 4 of the Service Delivery Statements regarding the implementation of the improvement of water resource management. There has been much talk already here today on that. Given the projected increase in the population of the Sunshine Coast by a quarter of a million people, and with 67 per cent—or, as you said, 65 per cent—of Queensland in drought, what infrastructure, besides those projects that have been spoken about today, is in the pipeline for water collection and storage? What is being looked at? When will it be developed for those areas that we have not spoken about today that are in dire need of assistance?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for the question. It is an important issue. I know that my electorate had a few big holes and cranes in it in procuring a pipeline from Sparkes Hill, which is in my electorate, to the Sunshine Coast to increase the capacity of the water grid to the Sunshine Coast. That was completed only last year. That would increase water security to the Sunshine Coast immediately.

You are absolutely correct that 65 per cent of the state is drought-declared, which is terrible for our farming communities. We have demonstrated specific commitments: Rookwood Weir; the Townsville pipeline, with \$215 million; and the state's Dam Improvement Program, with \$145 million for last financial year and the current financial year. We have already talked about Rookwood Weir at some length. Rookwood will be high-priority water for Gladstone and also for associated agriculture in that region. We have committed \$225 million for the Townsville pipeline, providing much needed water security for Townsville. Let us hope the federal government continue with their commitment for stage 2 of the project.

Raising Burdekin Falls Dam is a large issue. SunWater has completed preliminary assessments of raising Burdekin Falls Dam. This work has established that there is potential for sufficient water demand to exceed the current available water from the existing Burdekin Falls Dam in the short to medium term. SunWater's assessments include investigating the demand for water and supply options for meeting those demands in the region, including the potential for raising the wall. At this stage, Burdekin Falls Dam is considered a priority for further assessment in this catchment.

There are a number of competing water supply options across the Burdekin Basin which may have overlapping implications in terms of available water resources and potential water customers. We have already heard the CEO of SunWater talking about the Dam Improvement Program. Through our bulk water businesses we are making significant investment in the state's dam safety improvement program. Public safety is an absolute priority for this government. In response to these challenges, both SunWater and Seqwater are delivering dam improvement programs to ensure that dams comply with the latest safety standards, meaning they can continue to function safely during extreme weather events.

BUILDING OUR REGIONS QON & RESPONSE

Ms BOLTON: I refer to page 5 of the Service Delivery Statements regarding Building our Regions. Will the minister please explain why Noosa council is ineligible to participate in this program, given that Noosa is similar in size and structure to many councils that are eligible, does not have the resources of larger councils and is also excluded from funding under Works for Queensland, for which we continue to be unsuccessful in having the eligibility criteria reviewed?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Noosa for asking me a question. You are the first member of this committee and, indeed, you are not even a member of the committee—

Mr POWELL: They asked you questions.

Mr DICK: Non-government member; thank you for the clarification, member for Glass House. I am grateful that someone on that side of the table has asked me a question. Historically, Building our Regions has not been about South-East Queensland. I heard your question and I understand the challenges of councils such as Noosa. Admittedly, it was a decision made by that community to become a small council and separate themselves from the Sunshine Coast Regional Council. It is always a concern that, because of their size, they will not have the capacity and the rate base of a larger council to deliver projects for their community.

To be honest with the member for Noosa, I do not necessarily think those rules will change, because the program is focused on regional Queensland outside of the south-east. Broadly, when you look at our South East Queensland Regional Plan, for example—and I have worked with Mayor Tony Wellington on the regional planning group—it includes Noosa and the Sunshine Coast pretty much as the northernmost councils in South-East Queensland. However, there are other programs where the Noosa council is eligible and we would encourage it to support that.

As an election commitment, as the honourable member may know, through the Jobs and Regional Growth Fund we did invest in the Sunshine Coast broadband cable initiative. That will benefit residents of Noosa. That will create for the first time another data gateway into Australia, providing more strength and resilience to the data system in our country. We made a commitment in the election to do that.

If there are any specific proposals that the council has, I would encourage it, either through your work, member for Noosa, or directly, to contact either me or the department. We will see if they fit into a program. We will see if they can be supported. Committing money to regional and small rural communities is very important. Our flagship program is designed to support those communities.

SHARK CONTROL QON & RESPONSE

Ms BOLTON: I am going to be very quick and it will have to be a very quick answer, Minister. I refer to page 12 of the SDS regarding the continuation of the Shark Control Program, which has been very popular tonight. In response to questions from the member for Gympie and others, you outlined that \$1 million has been set aside for research and trials in new technologies. When and where is it expected that these trials will commence given that smart drum lines and other technologies are already being used nationally and internationally in place of mesh nets and lethal drum lines?

Mr FURNER: I thank the member for her question. That is correct. In relation to that investment that you alluded to in your question with respect to new technologies, the examination of those has already commenced. I will throw to the deputy director-general of fisheries, Graeme Bolton, to elaborate on where and how.

Mr Bolton: I thank the member for the question. We have started looking at the alternative trials. The Shark Control Program expert panel met a little while ago. We have commissioned Cardno, a leading environmental expert, to consider a number of recommendations. They will look at what has already been used around the world, both the electronic buoys and other digital monitoring activity. They will make a number of recommendations to the expert panel and the panel will then make some recommendations to the minister about where to go with the trials.

Ms BOLTON: I will go back to my question. When and where? What is the time frame here?

Mr Bolton: We are expecting the report from Cardno probably within the next month or so.

SIX MILE BRIDGE #7 QON & RESPONSE

Ms BOLTON: Minister, I refer to page 4 of the SDS. Given that Six Mile Bridge No. 7 was on QTRIP over a decade ago to be replaced and flood proofed and then subsequently taken off, when will the minister make it a priority to ensure the safety of residents and the many visitors to Noosa by undertaking urgent interim works until this dangerous one-lane bridge is replaced?

Mr BAILEY: I know that there is substantial population growth in that region that is putting some pressure on the road network. I know that the member is a very strong advocate for her local community.

I believe this particular project at Six Mile Creek is one of the remnant single-lane bridges from the days when the area was quite rural. We are seeing increasing suburban growth and that is putting pressure on it.

I am happy to have a look at that in particular. I believe we are aware of that bridge. The volumes are still not high. I am happy to come back to the member on that. I think we are also doing some planning in terms of future needs of the road network there. I am happy to come back to the member with further details as soon as I can.

Ms BOLTON: Mr Chair, can I ask a second question?

CHAIR: Certainly.

Ms BOLTON: I refer to page 4 of the SDS. Can you advise the estimated start date for stage 1 of the Beckmans Road, Tewantin bypass project which is the construction of the Cooroy Noosa Road intersection roundabout?

Mr BAILEY: The Department of Transport and Main Roads has been working closely with the Noosa Shire Council and planning to deliver stage upgrades to Beckmans Road, Tewantin. These upgrades are proposed at key locations to relieve congestion and to improve safety and efficiency along the road. Planning has identified the Beckmans Road and the Cooroy Noosa Road intersection as the first location for an upgrade. The proposal to upgrade the intersection to a roundabout has been endorsed by the Noosa Shire Council. The department is currently investigating funding opportunities for the proposed Beckmans Road and Cooroy Noosa Road intersection upgrade. Consultation with the Noosa Shire Council and you, as the state member, for further upgrades is continuing. As with all projects, any upgrades compete with funding for delivery against other priority infrastructure projects across the state. I know you have raised this with me a number of times, honourable member, and it is something that I am very conscious of as we proceed through that planning process and we look for opportunities in the future to allocate some capital there.

Ms BOLTON: Basically, we do not have any idea at all?

Mr BAILEY: I cannot confirm that at this stage. We are working our way up to that, but I do not have a start date and I do not have a capital allocation for you.

CHAIR: Just to clarify, Minister. Did you take the member's first question on notice or will you

endeavour to get back to us during this estimates hearing?

Mr BAILEY: I am happy to come back during this session.

CYCLING STRATEGY QON & RESPONSE

Ms BOLTON: My question is to the minister. I refer to page 4 of the SDS regarding the Queensland Cycling Strategy. Given the decrease of \$1.7 million in capital grants for the cycling network, will the minister please clarify whether this network includes bike pathways and why this decrease has occurred, given the increased demand for the transition from cars to bikes and requests for these pathways?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Noosa for the question. I recognise that there is probably no better place on earth to cycle than here in Queensland, with our extraordinary climate, and I recognise that the Sunshine Coast is a popular place to do that. I have done it myself. The portfolio responsibility for the Cycling Strategy rests with the Minister for Transport.

Ms BOLTON: My apologies. Mr Chair, can I ask one more question, then?

CHAIR: Yes, please.

Ms BOLTON: Minister, I refer to page 8 of the SDS. The government's Dignity First Fund helps finance innovative ideas to assist people experiencing homelessness. Can the minister advise whether any applicants have asked to utilise surplus state land or buildings to develop affordable housing? I want to clarify that this is not social housing but more community housing and emergency accommodations by communities themselves for their specific community needs.

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Noosa for the question and I appreciate the opportunity to discuss Dignity First. It is one of the initiatives under the Queensland Housing Strategy, the first year action plan. As members will be familiar, Dignity First is designed to support innovation in the delivery of homelessness support services right across Queensland. We recently announced the successful projects.

I am advised that since its inception we have funded 95 projects through three Dignity First rounds. A wide variety of projects have been funded over the three years. There have been a range of capital upgrades to a range of things—for example, the Help a Friend Club in Toowoomba and the Women's Centre in Cairns. Mobile services delivering food, laundry and transport services on the Sunshine Coast at the Maroochy Neighbourhood Centre have been funded to purchase a vehicle. Funding was provided for the social enterprises offering training and employment opportunities in the Hervey Bay electorate through the Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre. Purpose Enterprises received funding for their Youth Employment Pathway Program.

I am looking forward to seeing the next round being delivered. The fourth \$2.5 million funding round opened on 21 June and will close on 16 August 2019. I do not have information in front of me in respect of the 165 applications that have been made over the last few years, but I remind the member that, if there is a proposal that meets the eligibility criteria in the community that she represents, the current round—the fourth round—is open until 16 August 2019. That is in the market for eight weeks.

We look forward to seeing some more innovative proposals to support Queenslanders experiencing homelessness.

Ms BOLTON: Just to clarify, the question was regarding surplus state land and buildings. Would the government be open to a proposal regarding that?

Mr de BRENNI: We are interested in receiving proposals from all proponents. In terms of whether

the Dignity First Fund has a scale enough to be able to support the sorts of transactions that might be required in relation to surplus land, I would have to say without seeking further advice that I doubt a \$2.5 million fund would enable transactions of land in the community that the member for Noosa Estimates—Housing and Public Works, Digital Technology and represents. If there are other initiatives that the member for Noosa would like to put forward, certainly as part of our Housing Construction Jobs Program we have initiated conversations on the Sunshine Coast and right across the state as we work towards delivering on those targets, and we have invited proponents to come to the Queensland government and make suggestions about ways in which we could achieve the targets that are set out in the Housing Strategy and in fact continue to exceed them.

There are a number of pathways in which we can partner. Certainly we have been engaging with the housing and homelessness sector on the Sunshine Coast. I was at the Maroochy Surf Club a month or two ago where service providers came from right across the region to discuss with us options about how we can improve our service delivery. Like all of Queensland, the Sunshine Coast has seen a marginal decline in the number of people experiencing homelessness. We do think that is due to the excellent work of service providers like those in Noosa and also in part due to the Housing Construction Jobs Program that is delivering houses.

As I said earlier today in relation to another question, even one Queenslanders experiencing homelessness tonight is one too many. It is incumbent upon all of us to look for innovative ways in which we can support people out of homelessness. I want to take the opportunity, through you, Chair, to reflect on the No. 1 cause of homelessness, which is poverty. Queenslanders—in fact, all Australians—are experiencing the lowest wages growth in a generation. It is very difficult to afford to buy a home or pay your rent when your wages are stagnant. It is important that we address the whole system issues, and some of those levers rest with the federal government. In relation to the levers that we have at our disposal, which is to work with the homelessness sector and local governments that may come to us with surplus land around initiatives, we will continue to explore all of those.