

## Question on Notice

No. 70

Asked on Wednesday, 13 February 2019

**MR D LAST** 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 Springvale Nature Reserve—

Will the Minister advise (a) the original date the property was formally handed over to the Queensland Government and whether there has been any adjustment to these time frames, (b) if there are any plans to transfer the property to traditional owners and, if so, the date of the proposed transfer, and (c) the total State Government expenditure on rehabilitation work on the property to date?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

The Queensland Government took possession of Springvale Station on 25 May 2016. At the time of purchase, areas of degraded grazing land on the property were responsible for around 40% of sediment from gully erosion in the Normanby River catchment, which flows into the northern Great Barrier Reef. A conservation first management approach on the property is expected to provide a direct and measurable reduction in sediment load affecting the Great Barrier Reef. The property was under sublease until 30 November 2017 to allow the former owner to remove the majority of his cattle, consistent with conservation and sustainable land-use management objectives.

The Department of Environment and Science is committed to engaging in partnership with First Nations Peoples on the rehabilitation and future management of Springvale Station Nature Refuge.

Total State Government expenditure for rehabilitation on the Springvale Station Nature Refuge between 2016 and 31 January 2019 is \$3.2 million. Activities and projects on the Springvale Station Nature Refuge include: developing an Erosion Management Plan to guide future remediation works; removing 15,000 waste tyres; containing the first known Australian incursion of *Verbesina alata* (Orange wingstem daisy); repairing and restoring access along the 32 kilometre Keetings Track; aerial and ground pest and weed control; water quality monitoring stations; preventing alluvial mining; decommissioning a dam on the property and maintaining a sediment trap; ongoing destocking program; fire management and planning; and boundary and internal fence maintenance and construction.