

The Queensland Cabinet and Ministerial Directory

World-class research facility for native animals earmarked for Coast

Published Wednesday, 27 March, 2019 at 12:50 PM

Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games

The Honourable Kate Jones

Gold Coast theme park Dreamworld will expand its Corroboree Precinct to include a state-of-the-art research facility with \$2.7 million in funding from the Palaszczuk Government announced today.

Assistant Tourism Industry Development Minister and Member for Gaven Meaghan Scanlon said the new facility in the theme park's Corroboree and wildlife area would be Queensland's first native animal genome research facility.

"The Dreamworld Future Lab will be a world-class research facility and will allow us to deploy experts to tackle some of the biggest issues facing our native wildlife – like the threat of chlamydia on the local koala population," Ms Scanlon said.

"It will be the first of its kind in our state and will enhance the research capabilities of experts at the University of Queensland by allowing researchers and science undergraduates up-close contact with animals in the field.

"It's important we diversify the Gold Coast's economy and create highly-skilled jobs for the future.

"But the benefits of the research facility are twofold. Our native animals are a hit with tourists around the world, particularly Chinese visitors – today's announcement will help to keep the Gold Coast front-of-mind for prospective tourists."

Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development Kate Jones said Dreamworld's Future Lab would be funded through the State Government's Advance Queensland Connecting with Asia initiative.

"The Dreamworld Future Lab will give our experts vital access to native species and will help to build on Queensland's world-leading reputation for science and technology," she said.

"With the Health and Knowledge Precinct just down the road, we're investing in new research facilities on the Gold Coast like the Future Lab to create jobs for locals.

"That's what our Advance Queensland initiative is all about – diversifying our economy to create the jobs of the future.

"We expect the Future Lab to start construction in mid-2019 and it will provide great opportunities for school groups and visitors to experience first-hand the impact of scientific research and importance of animal conservation."

Environment Minister Leeanne Enoch said today's announcement was a win for conservationists around Queensland.

"It's vital that we find new ways to protect our native wildlife for future generations," she said.

"This will help to further the great work of our researchers and will also help to promote conservation among the wider public.

"It also builds on the work the Palaszczuk Government is already undertaking to protect our koalas, including the development of a koala conservation strategy for Queensland."

Dreamworld's General Manager Life Sciences, Al Mucci said the design and development of the research facility would start in mid-2019.

"On completion, the *Dreamworld Future Lab* will be the only operational scientific laboratory in Queensland that will have the capability to create a STEM tourism experience based on the conservation of koalas and other wildlife," Mr Mucci said.

"We believe this will be the first of its kind in the world where guests will experience researchers working on current wildlife conservation projects."

[ENDS]

Media contact:

Media Statements (/)

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[Queensland Government \(https://www.qld.gov.au/\)](https://www.qld.gov.au/)

DLO DES

From: DLO Tourism
Sent: Wednesday, 29 June 2022 1:19 PM
To: DLO DES
Subject: RE: MIN REGO - to QPWS&P - MIN LTR

Categories: Regula

Hi Regula

Yes happy to accept this referral.

Kind regards

Jackson Nobes

Departmental Liaison Officer | Sport and Recreation Office of the Director-General Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport

P 07 3333 5124 M CTPI 49-Sch4

Level 34, 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000 PO Box 15168, City East QLD 4002 dtis.qld.gov.au

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of Queensland. I offer my respect to elders past, present and emerging as we work towards a just, equitable and reconciled Australia.

-----Original Message-----

From: DLO DES <DLO.DES@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 June 2022 9:43 AM
To: DLO Tourism
Cc: DLO DES
Subject: FW: MIN REGO - to QPWS&P - MIN LTR

Good morning

I believe that the attached falls within Minister Stirling's portfolio. Can you please let us know if DTIS accepts this referral

Regards

Regula Uhlmann
3330 6263

-----Original Message-----

From: Emily Strickland <Emily.Strickland@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 23 June 2022 5:51 PM
To: Lillian Duggan
Subject: MIN REGO - to QPWS&P - MIN LTR

Action : MIN LTR
Template/Signature : MIN LTR
Closing paragraph contact : tbc
Related records

Other comments (if any) : The media statement Councillor Vorster is referring to is this one from 2019:
<https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/86949>

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Disclosure Log
RTI Act 2009

Rec'd 23/6/2022



Councillor Hermann Vorster

Division 11

Chair Lifestyle and Community Committee

PO Box 5042 GCMC QLD 9726

P 07 5581 7282 F 07 5582 8240 M CTPI 49-Sch4

E division11@goldcoast.qld.gov.au W cityofgoldcoast.com.au

facebook.com/CrHermannVorster



CITY OF
GOLD COAST.

16 June 2022

Hon Meaghan Scanlon MP
Minister for the Environment
and the Great Barrier Reef
GPO Box 5078
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Minister

I write with reference to this media statement in which your government committed to delivering a Dreamworld Future Lab to "tackle some of the biggest issues facing our native wildlife":

<https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/86949>

Can you advise whether this commitment has been delivered? I ask, because there is intense local interest in the project and my community is eager to know what came of the promise.

Yours sincerely

CTPI 49-Sch4

CR HERMANN VORSTER
Division 11 Councillor and Tree-hugger

(A78289382)

Alena Tracey

From: Alena Tracey
Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2022 1:42 PM
To: DLO DES
Subject: RE: ALENA - Question: ATTN Meaghan Scanlon MP, enquiry from cabinet.qld.gov.au



Hi Peta

This one is for Minister Hinchliffe's Office as Min Scanlon was not the decision maker.

Thanks
Alena



Alena Tracey
Executive Director
Office of the Director-General
Department of Environment and Science
Level 38, 1 William Street, Brisbane Qld 4000

E: alena.tracey@des.qld.gov.au
P. +

From: DLO DES <DLO.DES@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2022 1:38 PM
To: Alena Tracey
Subject: ALENA - Question: ATTN Meaghan Scanlon MP, enquiry from cabinet.qld.gov.au

Hi Alena – see below incoming, should I send this back to the MO to action since it is directed at the Minister? Pls note: we have been referring this topic to DTIS to respond (they have accepted).
thanks

Peta Johnston
Principal Departmental Liaison Officer
Office of the Director-General
Department of Environment and Science

Ph: 3087 8407 | Mob:
Peta.Johnston@des.qld.gov.au | Level 38, 1 William Street, Brisbane

From: Environment <Environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2022 1:28 PM
To: DLO DES
Cc: Danielle Shankey
Subject: FW: ATTN Meaghan Scanlon MP, enquiry from cabinet.qld.gov.au

FYI



Cheryl Packer
EA/Office Manager
Office of The Hon Meaghan Scanlon
Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef
Minister for Science and Youth Affairs
1 William Street, Brisbane

Telephone: 37197140

From: noreply@premiers.qld.gov.au <noreply@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2022 10:41 AM
To: Environment <Environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: ATTN Meaghan Scanlon MP, enquiry from cabinet.qld.gov.au

There is a new submission for Contact the minister.

Title	CTPI 49-Sch4
First name	
Family name	
Email	
Phone	
Would you like a response to your comments?	
Street address	CTPI 49-Sch4
Town/City	
State	
Postcode	
Subject	Reprehensible behaviour
Comment	CTPI 49-Sch4

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Attachment	
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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

Alena Tracey

From: DLO DES
Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2022 5:11 PM
To: Francis DelaCruz
Cc: Corro DES Min and DG; Alena Tracey
Subject: FW: FOR URGENT REVIEW: Dreamworld Future Lab funds-Standard correspondence response - section relating to DES
Attachments: Dreamworld Future Lab funds-Standard correspondence response - Short.docx
Importance: High
Categories: 1. Estimates

Hi Francis, please see below. DTIS is preparing a response regarding the Dreamworld Future Lab funds. DES' input is currently being fact checked.

Regards
Regula Uhlmann
3330 6263

From: Media DES <Media@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2022 4:59 PM
To: DLO DES
Subject: FOR URGENT REVIEW: Dreamworld Future Lab funds-Standard correspondence response - section relating to DES
Importance: High

FYI – ill send to Finance and EPP but let me know if any concerns from MO. Its due back tonight/first thing tomorrow



Ben Tracey (he/him)
Assistant Director
Media and Digital Unit | Communications & Public Engagement
Department of Environment and Science

M CTPI 49-Sch4
media@des.qld.gov.au
400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001
[Chat with me on Teams!](#)
[Visit the Environment Media Centre](#)
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From: Anthony Brown <Anthony.Brown@dtis.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2022 4:51 PM
To: Media DES
Cc: Michael OMeara; DTIS Media; Peter Evans; Ben Tracey; Kieran Lewis
Subject: FOR URGENT REVIEW: Dreamworld Future Lab funds-Standard correspondence response - section relating to DES
Importance: High

Hi team – how’s it going? Our Minister’s Office have been going a number of public enquiries re the Dreamworld Future Lab.

The Dept has put together the attached response.

They’ve asked if DES could review the highlighted section – which I’ve copied and pasted below:

The Palaszczuk Government, administered through the Department of Environment and Science, has recently allocated almost \$40 million to help protect Queensland’s native animals, including koalas at risk across the south-east. This includes \$24.6m to further implement the South-East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy 2020-2025 and \$3 million over two years to SEQ’s wildlife hospital network including \$1 million to Currumbin Wildlife Hospital.

The South-East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy 2020-2025 includes the strongest koala protections Queensland has ever seen, increasing both the area and level of protection given to koalas in the south-east corner.

Sorry about the urgency – can we get your response as soon as possible – first thing tomorrow morning. Hope that’s okay.

Thank you – cheers – Anthony



**Queensland
Government**

Anthony Brown
A/Media Manager
Communications
Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport

M CTPI 49-Sch4

Microsoft Teams – meet now
Level 2, 140 Creek Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15168, Brisbane QLD 4002
dtis.qld.gov.au

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Thank you for your correspondence regarding the Queensland Government's funding contribution towards Dreamworld's newest attraction, the Steel Taipan.

In late 2019, the Queensland Government committed funding to Dreamworld under the *Advance Queensland Connecting with Asia* initiative to support the development of a proposed new tourist attraction that would operate as a research and classroom space for educational institutions; the 'Future Lab'.

With international borders closed during the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, and to assist in the recovery of the tourism industry, Queensland Government supported the repurposing of this funding for the construction of the new Steel Taipan Rollercoaster at Dreamworld. This decision considered the:

- immediate economic benefits the project would bring to the region recovering from the impacts of COVID-19
- appeal of a new tourism offering likely to attract returning domestic visitors and international tourists when borders re-opened.

The Palaszczuk Government, administered through the Department of Environment and Science, has recently allocated almost \$40 million to help protect Queensland's native animals, including koalas at risk across the south-east. This includes \$24.6m to further implement the South-East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy 2020-2025 and \$3 million over two years to SEQ's wildlife hospital network including \$1 million to Currumbin Wildlife Hospital.

The South-East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy 2020-2025 includes the strongest koala protections Queensland has ever seen, increasing both the area and level of protection given to koalas in the south-east corner.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning Dreamworld's future development plans, I encourage you to reach out to them directly.

Once again, thank you for your enquiry.

Dreamworld Koala Research Lab – DES Funding

- The \$24.6 Million in new funding for Koala Conservation announced in the 2022 Queensland State Budget is to support delivery of priority actions under the SEQ Koala Conservation Strategy (the Strategy) over the next 4 years.
- The funding is specifically targeted at supporting the following initiatives:
 - significant expansion of koala habitat restoration programs on both private and state-owned land
 - targeted investment to reduce mortality and support increases in the koala populations
 - Applied research grants to improve knowledge gaps and develop innovative solutions to support on-ground conservation programs
 - Investment in a First Nations Koala Action Plan
 - Community awareness and education programs to support community-based action to support conservation efforts
 - Increased capacity of the South-East Queensland Wildlife Hospital Network to support the rescue, rehabilitation and release of sick, injured and orphaned koalas
 - The development and refinement of tools to assist in mapping and assessing the condition of koala habitat.
 - Additional staff and resources to support delivery and administration of the new funding initiatives and programs detailed above.
- The research elements in the Strategy are focused on supporting recognised research institutions and on ground conservation programs.
- The \$1 Million allocated for research is not intended to support investment in infrastructure.
- The reprioritisation of the Advance Queensland Connecting with Asia funding is a matter for the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport.

Alena Tracey

From: Ben Klaassen
Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2022 2:56 PM
To: Jamie Merrick
Cc: Alena Tracey; Karen Hussey
Subject: Koala Lab
Attachments: Estimates Dreamworld Koala Research Lab.docx

Hi Jamie



A few points attached should you be asked if we can fund the Koala Lab from the new funding. Short answer is no as research funding not infrastructure focus and we have \$1M.

Regards
Ben

Ben Klaassen

Deputy Director-General

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

M [CTPI 49-Sch4](tel:0755234343) | E ben.klaassen@des.qld.gov.au

Level 5, 400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15187, CITY EAST QLD 4002

I acknowledge that Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are the Traditional Owners of this country and they retain their relationship and connection to the land, sea and community.

I pay my respects to all Traditional Owners, and to the Elders past, present and the future for land and sea on which I work, live and walk.



Alena Tracey

From: Mark Jacobs
Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2022 10:56 AM
To: Alena Tracey; Karen Hussey; Ben Klaassen
Subject: FW: Media
Attachments: EDOCS-#14739925-v1-CTS16545-20_Letter_to_Treasurer_repurpose_CWA_funds.PDF

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: 0. To Do

Karen, Ben and Alena

Info below from DTIS and attached letter from then Minister Tourism to Treasurer – note they have provided a statement to the ABC this morning

Kind regards
Mark



Dr Mark Jacobs

Deputy Director-General

Science and Technology Division

Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3170 5848 M CTPI 49-Sch4 E mark.jacobs@des.qld.gov.au

41 Boggo Road DUTTON PARK QLD 4102

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From: Gayle OBrien <Gayle.OBrien@dtis.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2022 10:06 AM

To: Mark Jacobs

Cc: Lea Diffey

Subject: FW: Media

Hi Mark

As discussed, our Ministers offices have been talking today about the Dreamworld funding. This was a DTIS grant and the attached letter was shared with Minister Scanlon's office this morning by our Minister's office, along with the information below.

---00---

This statement was provided to ABC GC this morning:

The funding was provided by the Department of Tourism to attract international visitors.

With international borders closed during the pandemic, Dreamworld chose to invest the funding in infrastructure to attract domestic visitors and support local tourism jobs.

The Palaszczuk Government provided an additional \$3 million over two years to SEQ's wildlife hospital network in the most recent budget including \$1 million to Currumbin Wildlife Hospital.

It's part of the \$24.6 million the Palaszczuk Government allocated to further implement the South East Queensland Koala Strategy 2020-2025 in the budget.

The LNP voted against our sensible tree clearing laws, while it's this government that has introduced the strongest koala protections in Queensland's history and has just announced the biggest investment - \$262.5 million - expand our national parks.

These lines provided to Min Scanlon's office from the Minister's letter to the Gold Coast Councillor:

The decision to not proceed with the Dreamworld Future Lab was ultimately a commercial decision made by Dreamworld - at a time when all the theme parks were suffering from lack of patronage due to covid lockdowns and no international visitation.

Dreamworld made this request because Investing in a project which would have been largely targeted at international tourists at that time didn't make commercial sense.

Background info:

In 2019, the Queensland Government committed funding, under the Advance Queensland Connecting with Asia initiative, to support the development of the Dreamworld Future Lab and keep the Gold Coast front-of-mind for prospective tourists, particularly international visitors from key Asian markets.

Due to a number of delays in progressing the research facility and the subsequent onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, Dreamworld requested that the Future Lab project be placed on hold while it focused its future investment activities on new rides and attractions.

It was at this time that the Queensland Government launched the \$25 million Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund 2020 to help the tourism industry accelerate its recovery from COVID-19. Under this Fund, Dreamworld sought financial assistance to support the construction of a new multi launch roller coaster ride.

In view of the Future Lab project being placed on hold, the Queensland Government approved that the funding previously approved for the research facility be repurposed to support the construction of the new ride taking into consideration the:

☑ immediate economic benefits the project would bring to the region recovering from the impacts of COVID-19 ☑ appeal of a new tourism offering likely to attract returning domestic visitors and international tourists when borders re-opened.

Dreamworld's newest attraction, the Steel Taipan which opened in December 2021, supported 200 Gold Coast trade jobs during construction and will support 30 ongoing operational work opportunities for locals. In addition, the project is expected to attract an extra 240 000 visitors a year to the Gold Coast, injecting an additional \$30 million to the Gold Coast's visitor economy.

There is no doubt the addition of this new attraction to the region will assist the Gold Coast to rebuild better and recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

----00----

If you require anything further, just let us know.

Gayle



Gayle OBrien
 General Manager
Tourism Policy, Partnerships & Events
Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport

**Queensland
 Government**

M CTPI 49-Sch4
 Microsoft Teams – [meet now](#)
 Level 4, 140 Creek Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
 PO Box 15168, City East QLD 4002
dtis.qld.gov.au

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of Queensland. I offer my respect to elders past, present and emerging as we work towards a just, equitable and reconciled Australia.



Begin forwarded message:

From: Mark Jacobs <mark.jacobs@des.qld.gov.au>
Date: 28 July 2022 at 9:29:08 am AEST
To: Lea Diffey <Lea.Diffey@dtis.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Media

Hi Lea

Looks like it wasn't AQ funding from this media...

Jul 2022

Gold Coast Bulletin, Gold Coast

Author: Hayden Johnson And Jeremy Pierce • Section: General News

Article type : News Item • Classification : Regional • Audience : 35,000 • Page: 4

Printed Size: 638.00cm² • Region: QLD • Market: Australia • ASR: AUD 4,150

Words: 685 • Item ID: 1677050048

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HAYDEN JOHNSON AND

JEREMY PIERCE

ALMOST \$3 million in taxpayer

cash handed to Dreamworld

for a koala-research

facility was repurposed and

used to build the theme park's

Steel Taipan rollercoaster.

The Gold Coast Bulletin

can reveal the theme park was

granted \$2.7m in 2019 by the

Palaszczuk government to create

Queensland's first state-of-the-

art research facility to fight

major issues threatening native

wildlife including chlamydia

in koalas.

However, Tourism and Innovation

Minister Stirling

Hinchliffe was late on Tuesday

night forced to admit the Palaszczuk

government gave the

go ahead for the research cash

to be "repurposed" by Dreamworld

to instead build its new

Steel Taipan rollercoaster.

Mr Hinchliffe said the government

approved the change

due to the effect of the

Covid-19 pandemic.

“In view of the Future Lab project being placed on hold, the Queensland government approved that the funding previously approved for the research facility be repurposed to support the construction of the new ride, taking into consideration the immediate impacts of the pandemic and the appeal of new tourism offers likely to attract returning domestic visitors and international tourists when borders reopened,” he said.

“I am pleased to advise that where that ended up was in the newest attraction, the Steel Taipan, which opened in December 2021.”

His comments prompted a blunt response from LNP innovation spokesman Sam

O’Connor, who questioned:

“So the koala lab funding went to a rollercoaster?”

Mr O’Connor said there was a “real risk” koalas would be extinct from the wild by Brisbane’s Olympic Games in 2032.

The LNP MP said Dreamworld’s research facility was a “great idea” and called on the state government to question whether it would be built.

“To just allow these millions of dollars to be put into a rollercoaster and not follow up ... it beggars belief they haven’t asked them if they’re going to build the lab,” he said.

Mr Hinchliffe said Dreamworld had applied to access cash from the government’s \$25m Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund, which was designed help the tourism industry accelerate its pandemic recovery.

The research lab was announced by then tourism minister Kate Jones, environment minister Leeanne Enoch and assistant tourism minister Meaghan Scanlon.

At the time Ms Enoch said it was “vital that we find new ways to protect our native wildlife for future generations”.

Gold Coast City councillor Hermann Vorster wrote to Ms Scanlon in June, inquiring about progress on the March 2019 announcement, saying there was “intense local interest” in the project.

He received a response from Mr Hinchliffe on Tuesday, confirming the funding had been “repurposed” for the construction of the \$5m Steel Taipan rollercoaster as part of the government’s Growing

Tourism Infrastructure Fund due to “a number of delays in progressing the research facility”.

Mr Vorster said the revelation “outs the government as green fakers.”

“The state has been caught out spending the same dollar twice – but short-changing koalas,” he said. “They’ve just figured out koalas can’t vote – but that doesn’t mean they don’t count.”

Coomera is one of the Gold Coast’s biggest urban growth areas and is often viewed as ground zero in the fight to save the besieged koala population of southeast Queensland.

The research centre was viewed as a key weapon in

Kind regards

Mark



Dr Mark Jacobs

Deputy Director-General

Science and Technology Division

Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3170 5848 M CTPI 49-Sch4 E mark.jacobs@des.qld.gov.au

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Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation

Ref: CTS 16545/20

1WS
1 William Street Brisbane 4000
PO Box 15168 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7530
Email tourism@ministerial.qld.gov.au

03 SEP 2020

The Honourable Cameron Dick MP
Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning
treasurer@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Treasurer

I write to you regarding the repurposing of funds allocated through the Department of State Development Tourism and Innovation's (DSDTI) Advance Queensland: Connecting with Asia (CWA) program.

In 2019, Ardent Leisure (trading as Dreamworld) was approved to receive \$3.2 million in CWA funding for an initiative targeted at increasing international, in particular Chinese visitors - the Future Lab project. Since funding for this initiative was approved, the project has experienced delays, including from the COVID-19 pandemic. Ardent Leisure has recently requested that the Future Lab project be placed on hold for the coming 12 months.

Following the recent launch of the \$25 million Growing Tourism Infrastructure (GTI) 2020-21 Fund, Ardent Leisure lodged a project registration seeking \$5 million to support construction of a Multi Launch Roller Coaster ride with a total project cost of \$31 725 000.

The GTI Assessment Panel supports the roller coaster project to receive funding, however, has identified a high reputational and financial risk if Ardent Leisure is awarded another grant funding allocation for the project when it is yet to commence an existing grant funded project, the Future Lab.

Since the Future Lab project has not yet commenced, I propose to repurpose the \$3.2 million in CWA funds to assist the development of a new tourism project that will assist the region to recover from COVID-19.

If you agree, the repurposed \$3.2 million in CWA funding will fund the Multi Launch Roller Coaster project. The rationale for this is:

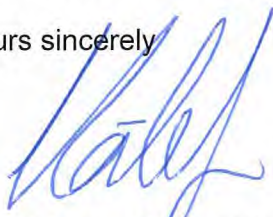
- The project is likely to provide immediate economic benefits for Dreamworld and will bolster a product offering that appeals to the domestic market
- The Future Lab project is targeted at increasing international visitors to Dreamworld which is unlikely to occur for some time due to COVID-19. The International Air Transport Association has estimated that international travel is unlikely to return to pre-COVID-19 levels before 2024
- The project appeals to a domestic market, which will drive an increase of visitors to Dreamworld through the post-COVID-19 tourism recovery.

- Repurposing the existing \$3.2 million in CWA funding allocation from a project not likely to commence for over 12 months to the Multi Launch Roller Coaster ride project that can commence immediately will support immediate growth in jobs for the region.
- The Regional Tourism Organisation supports the project as likely to attract return visitors to the region with a new offering.

Arden Leisure has recently received \$66.9 million support through a loan facility under the Industry Support Package. Arden Leisure is aware that the repurposing of this \$3.2 million in funding will reduce the Industry Support Package offer as it relates to the Multi Launch Roller Coaster by a commensurate amount.

Should you require further information or wish to discuss this request, please contact my office by telephone on (07) 3719 7530.

Yours sincerely



HON KATE JONES MP

Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation

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DLO DES

From: Ben Tracey
Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2022 6:10 PM
To: Francis DelaCruz; DLO DES
Cc: Media DES
Subject: RE: FOR URGENT REVIEW: Dreamworld Future Lab funds-Standard correspondence response - section relating to DES



Queensland
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Thanks Francis and thanks Peta.

Ben Tracey (he/him)
Assistant Director
Media and Digital Unit | Communications & Public Engagement
Department of Environment and Science

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400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000
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From: Francis DelaCruz <Francis.DelaCruz@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2022 6:10 PM
To: DLO DES
Cc: Ben Tracey; Media DES
Subject: RE: FOR URGENT REVIEW: Dreamworld Future Lab funds-Standard correspondence response - section relating to DES

No issues as it relates to the DES lines about budget investment in koalas/threatened species/wildlife hospital.

From: DLO DES <DLO.DES@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2022 6:04 PM
To: Francis DelaCruz <Francis.DelaCruz@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Ben Tracey <Ben.Tracey@des.qld.gov.au>; Media DES <Media@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FOR URGENT REVIEW: Dreamworld Future Lab funds-Standard correspondence response - section relating to DES
Importance: High

Hi Francis – see attached urgent release from DTIS – approved by DES Finance, QPWS DDG, EHPP DDG and Principal DLO ODG.

DTIS would like it back tonight.

Ben – I just made a very minor change.
thanks

Peta Johnston
Principal Departmental Liaison Officer

Ph: 3087 8407 | Mob: CTPI 49-Sch4
Peta.Johnston@des.qld.gov.au | Level 38, 1 William Street, Brisbane

From: Media DES <Media@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2022 5:55 PM
To: DLO DES; Peta Johnston
Cc: Media DES
Subject: FOR URGENT REVIEW: Dreamworld Future Lab funds-Standard correspondence response - section relating to DES
Importance: High

Hi Peta,

Please see attached media release for ODG/MO approval.

You'll note Brad Lang has made some small edits. (you can ignore edits by CTPI 49-Sch4 he's not from DES).

This has been approved by Brad Lang from finance, Ben Klaassen and Karen Hussey.

This is due back to DTIS tonight.

Ben



Ben Tracey (he/him)
Assistant Director
Media and Digital Unit | Communications & Public Engagement
Department of Environment and Science

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media@des.qld.gov.au
400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000
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[Visit the Environment Media Centre](#)
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From: Anthony Brown <Anthony.Brown@dtis.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2022 4:51 PM
To: Media DES
Cc: Michael OMeara; DTIS Media; Peter Evans; Ben Tracey; Kieran Lewis
Subject: FOR URGENT REVIEW: Dreamworld Future Lab funds-Standard correspondence response - section relating to DES
Importance: High

Hi team – how's it going? Our Minister's Office have been going a number of public enquiries re the Dreamworld Future Lab.

The Dept has put together the attached response.

They've asked if DES could review the highlighted section – which I've copied and pasted below:

The Palaszczuk Government, administered through the Department of Environment and Science, has recently allocated almost \$40 million to help protect Queensland’s native animals, including koalas at risk across the south-east. This includes \$24.6m to further implement the South-East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy 2020-2025 and \$3 million over two years to SEQ’s wildlife hospital network including \$1 million to Currumbin Wildlife Hospital.

The South-East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy 2020-2025 includes the strongest koala protections Queensland has ever seen, increasing both the area and level of protection given to koalas in the south-east corner.

Sorry about the urgency – can we get your response as soon as possible – first thing tomorrow morning. Hope that’s okay.

Thank you – cheers – Anthony



Anthony Brown
A/Media Manager
Communications
Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport

M CTPI 49-Sch4
Microsoft Teams – meet now
Level 2, 140 Creek Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15168, Brisbane QLD 4002
dtis.qld.gov.au

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DLO DES

From: Francis DelaCruz <Francis.DelaCruz@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2022 12:36 PM
To: DLO DES
Subject: RE: Pedestrian

Thank you

From: DLO DES <DLO.DES@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2022 12:31 PM
To: Francis DelaCruz <Francis.DelaCruz@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Pedestrian

Hi Francis
The attached letter was referred to DTIS.

Regards
Regula Uhlmann
3330 6263

From: Francis DelaCruz <Francis.DelaCruz@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2022 12:27 PM
To: DLO DES
Subject: FW: Pedestrian

Hey team – there's this line in this story, was there any corro related to this? Story says Assistant Min, but just checking nothing was sent or confirmed on this in June (as story reports) that money had gone elsewhere, particularly given not a portfolio thing.

Gold Coast City Councillor **Hermann Vorster** wrote to Assistant Tourism Minister **Meaghan Scanlon** asking about the status of the research facility — and she confirmed in June that the money for it had now gone to the rollercoaster.

<https://www.pedestrian.tv/news/koala-research-dreamworld-rollercoaster/>

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RTI Act 2009

Alena Tracey

From: DES Estimates
Sent: Friday, 29 July 2022 10:31 AM
To: Alena Tracey
Subject: RE: Dreamworld

Perfect – thank you



Karen Pope
Principal Policy Officer (Estimates)
Corporate Governance and Operations | Corporate Services
Department of Environment and Science

Level 31, 400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001

 [Chat with me on Teams!](#)

From: Alena Tracey <Alena.Tracey@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 29 July 2022 10:29 AM
To: DES Estimates
Subject: RE: Dreamworld

Hi Karen

Nothing has come this way. Having said that, we did get a copy of the letter sent to the Treasurer seeking repurposing of the funding. The Minister is comfortable to talk to this and refer it back to DTIS.

A



Alena Tracey
Executive Director
Office of the Director-General
Department of Environment and Science
Level 38, 1 William Street, Brisbane Qld 4000

E: alena.tracey@des.qld.gov.au
P. +

From: DES Estimates <DES.Estimates@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 29 July 2022 10:26 AM
To: Alena Tracey
Subject: FW: Dreamworld

Hi Alena

Mike mentioned that this one was discussed with ELT and info was being prepared – has this come back to you at all??

I haven't seen anything come back through us however Mike did say that the info may go to you directly.

Thanks
Karen



Karen Pope
Principal Policy Officer (Estimates)
Corporate Governance and Operations | Corporate Services
Department of Environment and Science

Level 31, 400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001

 [Chat with me on Teams!](#)

From: Danielle Shankey <Danielle.Shankey@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2022 7:21 AM
To: DES Estimates
Cc: Clare Manton
Subject: Dreamworld

Prepared for estimates

Hi - can we pls have a brief prepared?

Pls include DES's role / knowledge on this one pls? Also any background on the koala lab project and/ history of funding applications / funds committed from DES?

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Too much to bear? Ride takes koala \$3m

HAYDEN JOHNSON
JEREMY PIERCE

ALMOST \$3m in taxpayer cash handed to Dreamworld for a koala-research facility was instead repurposed and used to build the theme park's Steel Taipan rollercoaster.

The Courier-Mail can reveal the theme park was granted \$2.7m in 2009 by the Palaszczuk government to create Queensland's first state-of-the-art research facility to fight major issues threatening native wildlife including chlamydia in koalas.

However, Tourism and Innovation Minister Stirling Hinchliffe was forced to admit late on Tuesday night that the Palaszczuk government gave the go ahead for the research cash to be "repurposed" by Dreamworld to instead build its new Steel Taipan rollercoaster.

Mr Hinchliffe said the government approved the change due to the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"In view of the Future Lab project being placed on hold, the Queensland government approved that the funding previously approved for the research facility be repurposed to

support the construction of the new ride, taking into consideration the immediate impacts of the pandemic and the appeal of new tourism offers likely to attract returning domestic visitors and international tourists when borders reopened," he said.

"I am pleased to advise that where that ended up was in the newest attraction, the Steel Taipan, which opened in December 2021."

His comments prompted a blunt response from LNP Innovation spokesman Sam O'Connor, who questioned "So the koala lab funding went to a rollercoaster?"

Mr O'Connor said there was a "real risk" koalas would be extinct from the wild before Brisbane's Olympic Games in 2032.

The LNP MP said Dreamworld's research facility was a "great idea" and called on the state government to question whether it will be built.

"To just allow these millions of dollars to be put into a rollercoaster and not follow up ... it beggars belief they haven't asked them if they're going to build the lab," he said.

Mr Hinchliffe said Dreamworld had applied to access cash from the government's \$25m Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund, which was designed to help the tourism industry accelerate its pandemic recovery.

Gold Coast City Councillor Hermann Venter wrote to Ms Scanlon in June, inquiring about progress on the March 2009 announcement, saying there was "intense local interest" in the project.

He received a response from Mr Hinchliffe on Tuesday, confirming the funding had been "repurposed" for the construction of the \$32m Steel Taipan rollercoaster as part of the government's Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund due to "a number of delays in progressing the research facility".

Councillor Venter said the revelation "outraged the government as a politician".

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Thanks. Dan

Danielle Shankey

M:

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