



Hon Dr Steven Miles MP  
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and  
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef

Ref CTS 13212/16

**23 JUN 2016**

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 26 May 2016 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 2589-16 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly. Please accept this letter as my response to this petition and I request that, under Standing Order 125, you table the response by Monday, 27 June 2016.

I am aware of the issues raised in the petition relating to the environmental, social and economic risks posed by yellow crazy ants to the Wet Tropics region. I am also aware of the proposal prepared by the Wet Tropics Management Authority to eradicate the ants in and adjacent to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

I am therefore pleased to advise that on 29 April 2016, the Honourable Curtis Pitt MP, Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport announced a commitment of \$3 million over three years to support this work. The Treasurer's commitment has been fully delivered in the State Budget of 14 June 2016, which has now appropriated funds for this purpose to my portfolio.

Queensland's funds announcement preceded election commitments announced on 20 May 2016, by both the Federal Labor Party and the Federal Coalition. The effect of these commitments is that, under either party, a future Commonwealth Government will commit \$7.5 million in funding for this program. This brings the expected total State-Commonwealth funding for eradication of yellow crazy ants from the Wet Tropics region to \$10.5 million over three years.

It is anticipated that the eradication of yellow crazy ants within the Wet Tropics region will take about 10 years. The eradication program will be independently reviewed after three years to ensure the targets are being met and to refine methodologies applied as greater knowledge and new technologies arise.

Yours sincerely

**DR STEVEN MILES MP**  
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and  
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef

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