



Speech by

STEVEN RODGERS

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

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BEAUTIFICATION AND REVEGETATION OF KALAMIA SCHOOL

Mr RODGERS (Burdekin—ALP) (6.59 p.m.): I draw the attention of the House to a project that is being carried out by the Kalamia State School in my electorate. The title given to the project is BARKS, which stands for Beautification and Revegetation of Kalamia School.

The children at the school have embarked on a program to beautify and revegetate a waste area between the school and Lilliesmere Lagoon on a piece of land that is owned by the school. The Kalamia school has already received some recognition for the project. In the year 2000, it received the second prize in the Australian habitat program. In the year 2001, it entered the second stage of the project in the same program. This time, the school went one better and won the Australian habitat award.

Students, along with their teachers and the P&C, have committed to this conservation program. The work carried out by the students at the school and the school community so far with the clearing up of areas and the planting of trees and shrubs has started to transform the area back into a pristine state. It is already starting to attract native birds and animals back to this area.

I have asked the Minister for Education and also the Minister for Environment to support the schools program and I encourage all honourable members to support it. On 30 August this year, students at the school gave a Powerpoint demonstration to around 100 people representing Landcare, Education, James Cook University, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, water boards, Greening Australia, governments and canegrowers, conservation volunteers and other interested groups. The students, as part of that presentation, also took those present on a tour of the project area. They showed what they had achieved in the first stage of the project and also their vision for the completed development of the area. The students were very professional in their presentations.

The final outcome, when all stages are completed, is to make Kalamia State School an environmental learning area that can be used to educate other students and the community in looking after and learning about the environment in which we live. I therefore once again ask for your support for the students of the school and the school community for this project.
