



Speech by

**CARRYN SULLIVAN**

**MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE**

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Hansard 3 June 2003

**SANDSTONE POINT RECREATIONAL RESERVE**

**Mrs CARRYN SULLIVAN** (Pumicestone—ALP) (11.46 a.m.): Today I bring to the attention of parliament a state government Community Jobs Plan under the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative in the electorate of Pumicestone, which I represent, which has seen local residents volunteer to work alongside paid job seekers in an effort to identify and eradicate noxious weeds and exotics and replace them with native species on public land known as the Sandstone Point Recreational Reserve. The project is an example of a strong community spirit and began when members of the Sandstone Point Community Association Inc. applied for and received a \$24,000 grant from the federal government's Natural Heritage Trust Envirofund, which aims to restore and/or improve the natural environment.

The state government's Department of Employment and Training, while not nominating the project, is contributing just over \$124,100 to fund the wages of the Community Jobs Plan personnel for approximately 19 weeks. During that time the 10 trainees—Jeffery Althaus, John Armstrong, Shaun Flanagan, Adam Luck, Nick Pickering, Peter Vogler, Gordon Waye, Graham Hill, Felicity Walker and Brian Coffee—will all gain accredited skills to help them in their quest to find full-time employment after the completion of this project. Accredited skills include the identification and removal of noxious weeds, planting techniques, stabilising of erosion-prone areas, mulching, the use of hand-held and power tools, planning, teamwork, problem solving and negotiation skills. They will also receive Job Search training and resume and interview preparation through the Human Resources Department of the Caboolture Shire Council. The council has allocated around \$10,000 to the project in the form of materials, equipment, various indigenous plant species—some of which have caused debate among residents over their suitability—and a parks and gardens supervisor, Mr Shane Lampard, to oversee the project.

This project is a good example of how the three levels of government can work together with communities to enhance local environments and amenities. A total of 32 volunteers, mainly members of the Sandstone Point Community Association—including Mike and Mary O'Reilly, Alice Day, Sharyn and Bruce Giles, Guy and Kathy Kendall, Brian Davis, John Lowe, Martin and Heather White, Trevor Mann, Natalie Percy, Rachel and Tony Kippen, Jennifer and Ian Neville, John Naylor, Frank and Linda Bratovic, Karen Russ and Brodie Cotton, Carol Muller, John White, Bill and Jan Eberhardt, Graham Hughes, Nikki Steel, David Ferguson and Garth and Di Wiseman—are involved in the foreshore revegetation project. Spokesperson for the volunteers, Mr Bill Eberhardt, who like others feels very strongly about the preservation of the foreshore, said that the aim of the project was to restore the foreshore environment as much as humanly possible to its natural state without adversely affecting anyone's beautiful sea views. Bill invited me to view first hand the work being done by the volunteers. Mr Andrew Bradshaw from the Department of Employment and Training arranged for seven of the 10 trainees to be on site at the time. The other three were at training seminars.

Andrew and I added our congratulations to the positive partnerships formed between the trainees and volunteers and the three levels of government. The volunteer efforts have been valued at around \$18,000, which brings the total of the project to over \$175,000. This is the fourth revegetation project supervised by the council with funding from the state government's Breaking the Unemployment Cycle Community Jobs Plan. I have been able to visit and congratulate the participants.

Revegetation projects on Woorim foreshore on Bribie Island, Platypus Creek Park in Caboolture South, and Sheep Station Creek in Burpengary have all resulted in local areas being restored under the state government's \$470 million Community Jobs Plan, which will generate more than 56,000 jobs over

the next six years. I encourage other community groups to nominate other future environmental restoration projects in their local area that may be judged worthy of attracting all levels of government funding.