



Speech by

Hon. Lindy Nelson-Carr

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ecoBiz

Hon. LH NELSON-CARR (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism) (10.19 am): Queensland businesses are taking up the climate change challenge with vigour and the results will have great benefits for Queenslanders and our environment.

To date, over 250 businesses across Queensland have joined the EPA's ecoBiz program. This visionary program helps business identify and invest in environmentally sustainable business practices and technologies. Companies across the state are not only demonstrating that improved environmental performance equates to financial savings but also they are investing in their long-term viability as limited resources become ever more scarce and costly.

The Beattie government sees the ecoBiz program as the way forward. Ultimately, cutting resource consumption improves productivity and makes these companies more competitive. Sustainable companies also reap a range of other benefits including reduced risk, improved public profile and shareholder satisfaction.

The Beattie government has already issued \$1.53 million in rebates to ecoBiz companies to help them implement smarter, cleaner technologies. Collectively, these projects have the potential to save 577 megalitres of water, which is equivalent to 12,000 backyard swimming pools—enough energy to power 1,700 homes for a year—and reduce solid waste by 15,000 tonnes. They also have the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 17,840 tonnes, equal to taking 4,460 cars off the road for 12 months.

A great example is the work of the GPT Group managed Riverside Centre, a 41-storey premium grade commercial building in the Brisbane CBD. GPT and property managers Jones Lang LaSalle have implemented a range of standard water-saving measures at the Riverside Centre, but they have also gone one step further by investing in an innovative project to recycle cooling tower waste water for reuse on site. In the planning stage this project was estimated to save three megalitres a year in potable water. However, in the first few months since the new system was commissioned in December, over 1.3 megalitres has already been recycled.

I again congratulate those Queensland businesses who have joined the Ecobiz program and look forward to seeing more of them on our books in the future.