



Speech by

# Hon. Lindy Nelson-Carr

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

Hansard Thursday, 15 March 2007

---

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### *Cherry Venture*

**Hon. LH NELSON-CARR** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism) (10.13 am): After nearly 34 years trapped in sand on Teewah Beach at Cooloola, the remains of the *Cherry Venture* wreck are almost gone forever. Tides and time have taken their toll on the ship, with the remains deteriorating to the point where they have become a public safety liability rather than the tourist icon they once were.

After running aground during a severe storm in 1973, there have been several unsuccessful attempts to salvage the wreck of the Singaporean cargo ship. The Beattie government is successfully resolving the significant environmental and safety concerns associated with the wreck by contracting an experienced team of demolition and asbestos removal experts to remove the hulk and make the site safe. For the past six weeks, and at a cost of about \$600,000, heavy machinery has been removing the rusting and asbestos contaminated remains of the wreck from its final resting place. More than 1,250 cubic metres of material has been removed as part of the operation. Steel recovered from the wreck has been recycled and a significant amount of asbestos has been recovered from the site and disposed of safely in an approved waste facility.

The final phase of the clean-up involves using special equipment to sift the last rusted remains from beach sand around the wreck site. This is expected to be finished in the next week. The beach will be reopened to all traffic once these works have been completed and the all-clear for traces of asbestos has been given by independent monitors. While the wreck will be gone, the story will live on with information signs highlighting the story of the *Cherry Venture* being installed on site. I thank the local community for heeding advice to avoid the area while works were underway. Public cooperation has helped to ensure the safe removal of the wreck and restoration of this spectacular section of Queensland's coastline.