



Speech by

Hon. Lindy Nelson-Carr

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

Hansard Tuesday, 17 April 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Moreton Island Management Plan

Hon. LH NELSON-CARR (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism) (10.24 am): From 1 July the Moreton Island Management Plan will come into effect, helping to protect the things that make the island so popular. The planning process for Moreton Island revealed that Queenslanders want to keep Moreton Island a safe and sustainable family destination that offers a variety of nature based activities that support the conservation values of the island. With the growing pressures on the island's facilities and environment, it is important that we manage the area for everyone.

Moreton Island is frequented by more than 70,000 day trippers and 40,000 campers each year. This is in addition to the residents and weekenders who live on the island. The management plan will improve safety, help protect groundwater quality, protect cultural heritage, and ensure wildlife is not disturbed at critical migration and nesting times. The major changes being rolled out from 1 July 2007 include a camp site booking system, better marked camp sites, vehicle go-slow zones and beach safety zones. This plan has been a long time in the making and is the result of extensive work by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service staff with traditional owners and other community members. Over 180 submissions have been received.

The Queensland government has already spent more than \$1 million on improvements to visitor facilities in recent years, including a new \$640,000 campground at North Point and an interpretive centre at Cape Moreton, with further improvements on the drawing board. Copies of the management plan are currently available on the EPA's web site and will be made available in hard copy from the first week of May 2007.