



Speech by

# Hon. Lindy Nelson-Carr

**MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA**

Hansard Wednesday, 23 May 2007

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Youth Environment Council

**Hon. LH NELSON-CARR** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism) (10.21 am): Over the weekend I was very proud to meet with 30 impressive young people from around the state who will be providing this government with their perspective on the environment. The group of 16- to 25-year-olds met in the Gold Coast hinterland for the inaugural meeting of Queensland's first Youth Environment Council. The council has a very important task which is to provide feedback to the government on key environmental and sustainability matters affecting young Queenslanders, including climate change, water use, renewable energy and wildlife conservation.

The Premier committed to establishing this council as an outcome of the international Earth Dialogues forum held in Brisbane in July last year which was co-chaired by Mikhail Gorbachev. The group will report to me and to the Minister for Education, Training and the Arts. Council members will also act as youth leaders to inspire other young people to take action to promote environmental sustainability. Queensland has taken this initiative because we recognise that young people are our future leaders. The membership of the council reflects the geographic, cultural, Indigenous and gender diversity within Queensland's youth population, and the group will report back to us on progress with these challenges at the second meeting to be held later in the year. The Youth Environment Council will provide the government with valuable youth insights on key environmental and sustainability issues and develop tools to enhance youth awareness across the state. I look forward to working with the council to achieve a more environmentally sustainable future for Queensland.