



Speech by

Hon. Lindy Nelson-Carr

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

Hansard Tuesday, 5 June 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

World Environment Day

Hon. LH NELSON-CARR (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism) (10.10 am): I am very pleased to draw to the attention of the House that today is World Environment Day. In previous decades, World Environment Day fought for public attention. But now, in this time of drought and evident climate change, the value of focusing community attention on what we can do to better protect our precious planet is self-evident.

The Environmental Protection Agency has a long connection with this day and this year is no different. The EPA is taking the World Environment Day message to the community and is preparing a campaign to continue the spirit of the day throughout the coming year.

A practical response to our changing climate is to reduce motor vehicle use for city commuting. The EPA is joining with Queensland Rail to show its appreciation of Brisbane commuters' decision to use the suburban rail network.

Today, commuters are being given free compact fluorescent light bulbs and reuseable shopping bags as a reward for their contribution to greenhouse gas abatement. Westfield's Strathpine Shopping Centre and Big W at Strathpine are also partnering with the EPA to stage a major promotion to give away compact fluorescent bulbs. World Environment Day is a good time to remind ourselves that, if everyone in Queensland replaced just one 60-watt incandescent light bulb with an 11-watt compact fluorescent bulb, the reduction in greenhouse gases would be equivalent to taking 42,000 cars off the road for a year.

The EPA is committed to encouraging all Queenslanders to take whatever steps they can to protect our environment. Whether that is as simple a step as fixing a leaking tap or as major as changing a new house design to be environmentally efficient, our actions today leave a legacy for Queenslanders tomorrow. The quality of that legacy is in our hands. World Environment Day is a perfect opportunity to take stock and take a step in the right direction.