



Speech by

Hon. Lindy Nelson-Carr

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

Hansard Wednesday, 6 June 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Gold Coast Hinterland Great Walk

Hon. LH NELSON-CARR (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism) (10.18 am): I am pleased today to inform the House about the naming of a section of the soon-to-be-completed Gold Coast Hinterland Great Walk which will pass through the homeland of the extended families of the Yugambeh people and language group.

A section of the walk will be named the Woonoongoora section, acknowledging the significant value and meaning of the area to the Yugambeh people as the traditional owners of the Gold Coast hinterland area. The Woonoongoora section of the walk will link the Lamington and Springbrook national parks, starting at Binna Burra running through the Numinbah Valley and up to the Springbrook plateau.

The name Woonoongoora refers to the Yugambeh legend of how the mountain rivers were born. The incorporation of Aboriginal naming into this project was developed with Mrs Ysola Best through the Yugambeh Museum, Language and Heritage Research Centre. It is with great regret that I inform the House that Mrs Best passed away last month. Mrs Best was a tremendous ambassador for the Yugambeh people and played a key role in many Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service projects over the last 20 years.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the Yugambeh people for the support and assistance they provided to the QPWS during the process of planning and developing the Gold Coast Hinterland Great Walk. The Yugambeh people have been an integral part of the project over the past two years, assisting with cultural heritage surveys, staff training, signs and other interpretive material.

The naming of this section of the walk was supported by Mrs Best, the Kombumerri Aboriginal Cooperation for Culture, the Gold Coast City Council and Tourism Queensland. With a construction cost of about \$2.1 million, this is the sixth Great Walks of Queensland project resulting from the government's 2001 election commitment to maintain and enhance the state's natural environment and foster economic development through ecotourism. When complete, the 54-kilometre walk will provide bushwalking and tourism opportunities to rival other international walking destinations. It is expected to open in late 2007.