



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 7 June 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Nature Refuge Program

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.46 am): Queensland's Nature Refuge Program now covers more than half a million hectares of our state's natural and cultural heritage. It is a growing network of 242 nature refuges totalling 561,000 hectares of some of the most diverse ecosystems on the planet. The environment minister, Lindy Nelson-Carr, and I will announce later today that 19 new refuges have signed up to this important statewide network and there are more on the way. We will be joined today by landowner and founder of Flight Centre, Graham Turner, who has agreed to sign up his third property to this important conservation initiative. When gazetted, Mr Turner's commitment will sign up another 2,080 hectares of land that borders the World Heritage listed Main Range National Park.

Our nature refuges protect areas of high conservation value while at the same time allow their ongoing sustainable use. This means that landholders can go on managing their enterprises while protecting their land's unique values. The landowners who sign up are playing a critical role in protecting species and ecosystems that are underrepresented in national parks. They also are making an incredible investment in our environment for which future generations will thank them.

The Queensland government's Nature Refuge Program is a truly outstanding example of cooperation and partnership at all levels. Its success is no doubt being monitored by the Commonwealth and other state governments. I congratulate Mr Turner and I thank him and all landholders who have signed up to this important initiative.

I table a news release providing further details and I seek leave to incorporate in *Hansard* the Queensland Nature Refuge gazettals announcement for June 2007.

Tabled paper: Copy of Premier's media release (undated) titled 'Half a million reasons to celebrate nature: Premier', and attachment.
Leave granted.

Queensland Nature Refuge gazettals announcement—June 2007

South west

Carnarvon Station (59,018 ha)

- grassy woodlands, dramatic sandstone cliffs, natural freshwater springs and great expanses of native grassland. The nature refuge also protects vulnerable animal and plant species including the barking owl and the king bluegrass

South east

Old Hidden Vale (3091 ha) Ipswich

- diverse regional ecosystems between Main Range National Park and Mistake Mountain Range habitat for rare and threatened species including the vulnerable glossy black cockatoo, the rare square-tailed kite and the koala.

Thornton View (352.2 ha) Laidley

- a state significant vegetation corridor for wildlife including the vulnerable brush-tailed rock wallaby and koala, along the Scenic Rim of Mistake Mountain Range

Jilumbar (8.01 ha) Sunshine Coast

- natural wildlife corridors “of state significance” linking lowland area on the Sunshine Coast to the Blackall Range and Kondalilla National Park

Kalisha (26.3 ha) Gatton

- Gatton bushland being restored to its former glory by removing exotic species and clearing walking tracks—site for nature conservation education

Penda Scrub (7.96 ha) Sunshine Coast

- habitat for endangered wildlife such as the giant barred-frog and red goshawk, the vulnerable three-toed snake tooth skinks and spotted-tailed quoll

Dahmongah (16.19 ha) Mount Mee

- Similar vegetation to eucalyptus forest—home to rare and threatened species including endangered native jute species.

Eagle's Nest (24 ha)

- remnant and regrowth Eucalyptus and dune plants. Also protects suitable habitat for endangered hill slopes trees and threatened flora and fauna

Ukikuna (90.7 ha) Maleny

- endangered eucalyptus and other regional ecosystems

Central

Rivercal (40.9 ha) Callide

- regenerating areas of brigalow and belah open forest and eucalyptus forest supporting koalas, tree dwelling marsupials, owls and woodland birds

North

Stuart Creek (21.7 ha) Townsville

- environmental rehabilitation by Queensland Rail. Home to migratory birds including the great egret, cattle egret, white-bellied sea eagle and white-throated needletail

Rose Gums (85 ha) Atherton Tableland

- the site of an award-winning wilderness retreat at which provides habitat for the endangered southern cassowary, rare grey goshawk, blue-faced parrot-finch and tapping green-eyed frog

Maroobi Park (10.4 ha) Wet Tropics

- key wildlife landscape linkages between Lake Barrine and Lake Eacham sections of Crater Lakes National Park in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area

Melsonby (Gaarraay) (3610 ha)

- Sandstone escarpments, and riverine and riparian environments including the Normanby River and Bridge Creek—complimenting the natural and cultural values of the adjacent Jack River National Park, Melsonby (Gaarraay) National Park and nearby Lakefield National Park (3610ha).