



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Tuesday, 4 September 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Steve Irwin, First Anniversary

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.42 am): Today marks the first anniversary of the passing of Steve Irwin, a much-loved and visionary Queensland. While his family, friends and admirers remained saddened by his loss, they are also heartened by his great commitment and personal passion for protecting and preserving wildlife. There have been many tributes to Steve Irwin's life and work during the past year, and I want to mention some of them today. Immediately after his passing we received more than 23,000 messages of condolence. These were collated and bound into permanent volumes which I presented to Terri Irwin on behalf of all Queenslanders. In late September 2006 I announced that the Glass House Mountains Road would be renamed the Steve Irwin Way as a permanent tribute to the late conservationist.

The Queensland government has also initiated the Steve Irwin Ecotourism Award as part of the annual Queensland Tourism Awards. The award honours the conservation and tourism achievements of Steve Irwin and celebrates ecologically sustainable tourism. At the Tourism Awards ceremony Terri Irwin accepted a special award on behalf of her late husband. This award formally acknowledged the outstanding contribution Steve made to tourism over the past decade. In New York in May I announced that Clark Bunting, the President of the Discovery Channel, was the inaugural recipient of the Steve Irwin Memorial Goodwill Ambassador Award. The new category honours Steve as arguably being Queensland's greatest cultural and goodwill ambassador to the United States. Just last month the Queensland government renewed a memorandum of understanding with Australia Zoo to work cooperatively for the benefit of wildlife. The spirit of Steve Irwin lives on in many ways. I again pay tribute to his energy, joy and commitment to conservation and wildlife and acknowledge all those who continue his work today.