



Speech by

Hon. Rachel Nolan

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Hansard Thursday, 18 June 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Noosa River Marine Zone

Hon. RG NOLAN (Ipswich—ALP) (Minister for Transport) (10.11 am): The Bligh government's Q2 targets for a green and fair Queensland are very clear: we want to protect our lifestyle and environment and we want to support a safe and caring community. I am pleased to inform the House that the Bligh government and the Sunshine Coast Regional Council are working together to better manage maritime activities on the environmentally sensitive Noosa River.

The Noosa River Marine Zone will be introduced from 1 July 2009 to better regulate specific vessel activities to help protect this sensitive area and make sure it can continue to be enjoyed by the whole community. This new marine zone will control personal watercraft freestyling, surfing and wave jumping, the use of hovercraft and the take-off and landing of aircraft. Waterskiing will also be limited to designated areas of the river between 8 am and 5 pm. Personal watercraft can continue to be operated in transit in the lower reaches of the Noosa River, downstream of Noosa Waters to the river mouth. There will also be an exemption for the operation of commercial personal watercraft in the gazetted Noosa River commercial personal watercraft area.

We will work with the Sunshine Coast Regional Council to implement this new marine zone, educate the community about the changes and ensure it is managed and enforced appropriately. The river will remain accessible for a variety of recreational activities but the new regulations will ensure it is user-friendly for everyone. The legislation to establish the Noosa River Marine Zone came into effect in May this year and allows a three-month transitional period to inform the community and users of the Noosa River of the changes.

This new marine zone is about balancing the needs of maritime users with local community concerns about the natural environment of the Noosa River. The implementation of the Noosa River Marine Zone is a great example of how the Bligh government and local governments are working together to address the management of our waterways at a local level.