



Speech by

Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Thursday, 10 June 2010

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget, Environment; Willawong, Proposed Residential Development

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Acting Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability) (10.16 am): This year's budget more than any other before it was a green budget. Our government has had a plan to reach our green targets and we have stuck to it. People will not find many areas in this budget with a sharper focus on the future than in the environment portfolio. They will see a new investment of \$56 million over five years for new national parks—the biggest funding injection for national parks by any state government. This will go towards acquisition as well as management and will see us catapult towards our target to reach 12.9 million hectares across the state.

Some \$45.5 million has been allocated to further protect koala habitats in South-East Queensland. This is the largest funding amount for koalas ever made by a Queensland government. Some \$8.4 million has been allocated to continue the successful Nature Assist Program to roll out more government funded nature refuges in this state. We are already nearing the two million hectare mark for nature refuges.

We know how important it is to further protect the cape and give its unrivalled natural qualities the recognition they deserve. We will invest \$3.5 million in progressing a World Heritage nomination for Cape York, focusing on ongoing consultation and engagement with traditional owners and other landholders.

Last of all, we now have the financial capacity needed to turn Queensland from a dumping state to a recycling state. We will be carrying out a series of initiatives and reforms, particularly focused on helping businesses improve their waste management strategies. Put simply, we want to see one company's trash become another company's treasure. If we continue to dump waste to landfill we are not only wasting valuable resources, we are also wasting new business opportunities. Recycling creates three times more jobs than disposing of waste to landfill and at the moment these opportunities are going begging.

This budget allows us to plot a new course for waste management to meet contemporary waste and environmental challenges. This is a government that has stuck to a plan. This is a budget that is a huge win for conservation, a huge win for sustainability and a huge win for the environment.

On another matter, in this morning's *Courier-Mail* the Lord Mayor accused me of misleading parliament yesterday regarding Brisbane City Council's plans for a large residential development near a medical waste facility. The Lord Mayor took exception to my statement that it was only recently that DERM became aware council had proposed a large residential development for a parcel of land adjacent to Ace Waste.

It is clear that DERM has been involved in planning meetings for the Lower Oxley Creek area since 2006. However, it was only during meetings last year that council's plans for houses to be built so close to this facility were seriously contemplated. These plans were set out in the draft Paradise Wetlands neighbourhood plan, which was submitted to the state government for the first state interest check in the middle of last year and which DERM was asked to provide its response on in July 2009. As recently as

February this year, DERM reiterated its position to council that council should adhere to a draft state planning policy recommending a separation distance of 1,000 metres from facilities such as Ace Waste. I know the local member, Karen Struthers, is also fully supportive of this as well. I stand by my statement in this House yesterday.