



Speech by

Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Wednesday, 14 April 2010

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Greenspace Strategy

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.02 am): In the lead-up to the Queensland Growth Management Summit on 30 and 31 March, the Premier announced a draft Queensland Greenspace Strategy to unlock land for public use and nature conservation. Green spaces are where Queenslanders can kick a ball, walk a dog, unfold a picnic blanket or just enjoy the great outdoors. These areas include council parks, public gardens, playing fields, children's play areas, foreshore areas, bushland, national parks, state forests and conservation reserves. The Bligh government is committed to providing more of these areas to ensure our enviable lifestyle is not adversely impacted upon by growth.

Initially, the focus will be on South-East Queensland and the major growth areas in regional Queensland. The draft Greenspace Strategy will increase the availability of additional public access to land for recreation and introduce better planning processes, tools and instruments to increase green space. In addition, the draft strategy aims to remove the arbitrary barriers that limit public access to state owned land, encourage recreation opportunities on private land and investigate the potential to use surplus state owned land as green space.

The draft Queensland Greenspace Strategy will also help provide a guide for the future planning of green space throughout the state. This important commitment highlights the need to protect our environment and our way of life. The same issues prompted the Bligh government's Growth Management Summit, which brought together state and local government, industry, stakeholders and community members. The government will continue to work through the innovative ideas and initiatives that were proposed at the summit. I again encourage the public to look at the strategy online and have their say, with submissions for the draft Greenspace Strategy open until 5 pm on Friday, 7 May.