



Speech by

Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Wednesday, 24 November 2010

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

South-East Queensland Outdoor Recreation Strategy

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.15 am): It is with pride that I advise the House that the Bligh government's Brisbane Valley Rail Trail has won the Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation's 2010 Government Achievement Award. To date an amazing 100 kilometres of this trail has been opened to the public, with just 48 kilometres to go between Ipswich and Blackbutt. I want to thank and congratulate the member for Ipswich West and the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail Steering Committee, which Wayne Wendt is the chair of, for their significant contribution to this project. I have no doubt that their hard work and dedication has resulted in this accolade.

I was fortunate to attend the Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation's awards night last month and launch the government's much anticipated South-East Queensland Outdoor Recreation Strategy. This strategy aims to enhance the social, health, educational and tourism benefits of outdoor recreation by defining outdoor activities which contribute enormously to Queensland's identity, culture and economy. In South-East Queensland alone the participation of residents and tourists in outdoor recreation activities contributes more than a billion dollars a year to our economy, often supporting regional economies and job creation where there are few other economic development opportunities. The strategy establishes mechanisms for the state government to negotiate partnerships with local councils, businesses and communities for planning, developing and managing outdoor recreation spaces in South-East Queensland. Importantly, successful implementation of the strategy will provide a model for other regions around the state where significant future growth may impact on the ability and accessibility of areas for outdoor recreation.

Even our drought-proofing infrastructure is proving to be a popular attraction. For example, a 40-kilometre network of recreation trails is being developed around the Wyaralong Dam project as part of the Mount Joyce Escape Recreation Park. This will be a unique nature based outdoor recreation and tourism attraction which will draw individuals and families to everything from thrill-seeking recreation activities and serious hiking through to more relaxed bushwalking and camping trips. In fact, the park has already been selected as the venue for the April 2011 national mountain bike championships—a major coup for the local region. The Mount Joyce Escape Recreation Park will boast camping, barbecue and playground facilities with some remote camp sites only accessible by hiking trails or canoe and scenic outlooks providing majestic views of the Scenic Rim and Brisbane. These initiatives highlight the Bligh government's commitment to delivering on green and healthy Q2 targets, preserving the environment and encouraging active lifestyles.