




Speech by

Freya Ostapovitch

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

Hansard Thursday, 2 August 2012

KARAWATHA FOREST

 **Mrs OSTAPOVITCH** (Stretton—LNP) (3.08 pm): I rise to speak about the wonderful Karawatha Forest that makes up a third of the Stretton electorate and is located in the southern outskirts of Brisbane City bordering Logan City. It is of extreme ecological importance to the 160 or so species of wildlife that one sees when walking on the circuits that meander through 900 hectares of bushland, including wallabies, koalas, gliders and rare frog species. After walking, there are two picnic areas with recreational facilities available to have a rest and reflect on the Karawatha Forest experience. The creek and lagoon are picture-postcard to say the least, the kind of serene beauty that makes one want to pick up a paintbrush and have a go at capturing its beauty. Over 320 plant species have been identified in Karawatha Forest. The forest contains some of the last remaining wet heathland and melaleuca swamps in Brisbane.

In 2005 a road widening project was undertaken by the Brisbane City Council, increasing the width of Compton Road to four lanes. Compton Road is, unfortunately, a well-known spot for fauna kills, especially wallabies and kangaroos as they cross from Karawatha into Kuraby bushland. A land bridge was built across the road to safely guide wildlife over the busy roadway. The project has generated worldwide attention and is the only one of its kind in Australia incorporating so many fauna-friendly features in one stretch of road. I spoke to a wildlife ranger and he said that the crossway is so user-friendly that wildlife have actually made their homes and nests on the overpass directly above the traffic.

I am very excited to say that the Karawatha Forest Protection Society are holding a bushwalk and barbecue picnic day on 9 September from 10 am until 2 pm. The wonderful Lions Club of Macgregor are running the barbecue as a fundraiser. I thank Councillor Kim Marx and the Brisbane City Council for their support of this event. The electorate of Stretton invites you to come and join us for what will be a truly enjoyable day out.