



Speech By  
**Hon. Andrew Powell**


**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Queensland Day; Budget, Environment and Heritage Protection**

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (9.45 am): Happy Queensland Day. I will have the privilege later this evening of joining the Royal Historical Society of Queensland at its dinner. Based on the Premier's comments this morning, I had better change my tie before then. The Newman government's third budget continues our commitment to protecting Queensland's environment and heritage places. It is a budget which delivers a strong plan for a brighter future for the environment while growing a four-pillar economy and job opportunities. With a commitment of over \$78 million—almost half of EHP's total budget—for the department's conservation programs, we will ensure that Queensland remains one of the most biodiverse places on earth.

The Newman government is delivering practical environmentalism. Unlike Labor, we are focused on delivering green outcomes, not green preferences. This coming financial year a further \$26.7 million will be put aside for major land acquisition programs. The nature refuge network will also be increased and more than four million hectares will be protected. Our nature refuge network will be complemented through our new offsets legislation, which will deliver strategic land corridors for habitat protection, unlike the random and patchwork quilt approach of the Labor government.

We will continue to increase koala habitat through the acquisition of suitable land, and we will continue to support our wildlife carers and research scientists as they look for solutions to the disease that is impacting on our koala population. Over the past two years we have already seen the success of our investing to protect our koalas initiative—a program which has put more dollars towards koala habitat protection, rescue and rehabilitation than any Labor government before us. Labor measures their environmental credentials in metres of green tape. We measure our environmental success in true environmental outcomes. We are about common-sense conservation, and we are working smarter and harder to deliver strong outcomes for an environment that will deliver real benefits for all of our Queensland community.