




Speech By
Hon. Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 7 August 2014

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Environmental Protection

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (9.49 am): The Newman government is determined to make Queensland the safest place to live, work and raise a family. This government has a strong plan to protect Queensland's environment. In the next few months, we will look to increase the maximum penalties for a number of offences under the Environmental Protection Act 1994. These increases will reflect the seriousness of the offences and reinforce our role as a firm but fair regulator.

This government is committed to helping business do what it does best: facilitate economic development and create jobs. I can reassure the business sector that where a business is doing the right thing it has nothing to fear. However, under the changes, for those who do not do the right thing we will increase maximum penalties for the most serious of offences. That includes those who wilfully harm the environment.

In addition, after a review of the on-the-spot fines, there will be an increase in penalties, as well as new offences added from 1 September this year. Those fines will act as a deterrent against future reoffending. We will also increase fines for taking a protected animal without authorisation under the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

Time and again this government has proven that we can protect the environment and encourage sustainable economic development. This is part of our strong plan to put Queensland back on track so that we again become the nation's leading economy and, more importantly, ensure Queensland is a safe place to live, work and play. The Newman government has a strong plan for a brighter future for Queensland's precious environment.