



Speech By  
**Fiona Simpson**


**MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**Mount Coolum National Park, Facilities**

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (9.22 pm): The stink over the lack of loos at the Mount Coolum National Park is growing stronger, but environment minister Steven Miles is pooh-poohing the desperate cries of the public for relief, and it is not the only thing that is getting up their noses. Minister Miles has responded negatively to the petition of local residents and visitors which I presented to this parliament—a petition which he has rejected—with their requests for toilets at this iconic and popular national park. He can try to wash his hands of responsibility to act, but the local residents cannot so easily wash away the problem, as record visitors to the park unfortunately answer the call of nature in residents' frontyards and around the national park itself. The exploding number of visitors, which have nearly doubled to about 10,000 a month in the last couple of years, means that this is a public health and environmental issue. The environment minister's response is that the management plan's direction and purpose include that visitor access will be confined to pedestrian use only and that no toilets will be provided. That is a policy position and it is easily changed if the minister agrees, and there is no valid reason that I have heard yet to justify holding on to a failed policy—and it is a failed policy—and a lot has changed since that 1998 management plan made that statement. I table the management plan and, as far as I am aware, it has not been substantially updated since it was conceived in 1998.

*Tabled paper:* Department of Environment: Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service – Mt Coolum National Park Management Plan, May 1998 [[1618](#)].

That plan also says that development on the park will aim to lessen degrading impacts caused by visitor use. I would suggest that an environmentally and aesthetically appropriate toilet facility would lessen the negative impact of visitor use and enhance conservation outcomes. I said a lot had changed in the last few years. Well, 10,000 visitors—nearly a doubling in the last few years—is a significant impact. Conservation outcomes are not supported by having people leaving unwanted deposits in the national park because there are no public facilities available and the closest are quite a long way away. The management plan does need to be revisited. I would also like the environment minister to visit the national park. I have issued that invitation but am yet to have a positive response. I would be delighted to show him this beautiful and iconic location that we want to keep iconic and make pristine again, because we want to see people enjoying the great outdoors but not answering the call of nature while they are there.