




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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ADJOURNMENT

Purling Brook Falls Suspension Bridge

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (11.10 pm): I rise to update the House on a fantastic LNP achievement that will go a long way to boosting tourism and revitalising Springbrook National Park in my electorate of Mudgeeraba. On 10 March 2015 the Purling Brook Falls suspension bridge was opened in Springbrook National Park which completes the Purling Brook circuit for visitors and locals to explore and enjoy. This bridge delivers on a \$1 million commitment to tourism in my electorate and to boosting the economy of the Springbrook community. It is an outstanding piece of infrastructure which was fought for, funded and delivered by the Liberal National Party during the last term of government and I could not be more proud of this fantastic new addition to my national park.

As members are aware after my numerous speeches in this place, for too long the Springbrook community suffered under successive Labor governments. As a result of decisions made by the Labor Party, Springbrook was at a crossroads when we came to government. Businesses were struggling, tourism was declining and a fantastic mountain community was being closed down before our eyes. Under the LNP the Springbrook community finally saw real progress. In April 2014, I stood at the top of Purling Brook Falls with the then minister for national parks, recreation, sport and racing, the member for Buderim, to announce that the LNP government would deliver \$1 million in walking track upgrades and build a new suspension bridge at the base of Purling Brook Falls. This was the most significant infrastructure commitment the Springbrook community has seen in decades. It was a clear example of how we were restoring tourism in Springbrook and enhancing our national parks for all to enjoy.

A year later, the Purling Brook Falls suspension bridge stands as a symbol of Springbrook's renewal and of the LNP's commitment to unlocking this community for the benefit of local businesses and our national park. It was disappointing that as the local member I was not invited by the new Labor Minister for National Parks—who, by the way, was not even a member of this House when this project was designed, delivered or constructed—to join him in announcing its completion. I thank again the member for Buderim for his unwavering dedication to my very small community in delivering this commitment for residents of my electorate. I also thank the Springbrook Mountain Community Association, the Springbrook Chamber of Commerce and the countless locals and business owners who helped me deliver this fantastic new tourism drawcard for our local area.

This was a project that was fought for by the LNP, funded by the LNP, delivered by the LNP and announced by the ALP. While the new Labor government may attempt to take credit where credit is not due, history cannot be rewritten. It was the LNP that delivered this piece of infrastructure and provided this boost to the Springbrook community. I very much look forward to continuing to fight for the small Springbrook community ensuring that they get the representation that they deserve over the next three years.