



Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**


**MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA**

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Record of Proceedings, 19 May 2015

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (10.27 am): I rise today to inform the House of the achievements this government has made in the last three months in the area of protecting the environment and, in particular, safeguarding the Great Barrier Reef, undoubtedly our state's single greatest natural asset. I am proud to make this statement to the House as not only Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks but also Minister for the Great Barrier Reef. This is the first time Queensland has had a minister for the reef, which on its own serves to highlight the importance this government attaches to protecting and preserving our environment.

In relation to the reef, we have already made considerable progress. The Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan has been released, and it incorporates the strong suite of commitments we made in the election campaign. The high-level Reef Water Science Taskforce has been appointed and will be led by the Queensland Chief Scientist, Dr Geoff Garrett. This task force will advise on how best to achieve the water pollution reduction targets we have set and how best to invest the additional \$100 million this government will commit to water quality improvement.

The Office of the Great Barrier Reef is also now in action. The office will oversee implementation of the government's reef management strategies and programs, providing greater oversight and accountability. Our policies have been so welcomed that, as I reported to the House last sitting, the Prime Minister came to Queensland to launch it with me. Why? Because even the Liberal-National coalition government was concerned about the disregard those opposite had for the reef.

Even their colleagues were concerned that their actions would see the reef listed as in danger by UNESCO. What a terrible outcome that would have been for the reef and for the 6,000 jobs that it supports. Now Queensland has a government with a long-term plan to protect the reef, a long-term plan that will protect those jobs. This is a government that will save the Great Barrier Reef.