




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Raine Island, Green Turtles

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (10.01 am): Many members will know the story of Raine Island. One of the jewels in the crown of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area, Raine Island on the remote northern edge of the reef is the location of the world's largest green turtle breeding grounds. Up to 60,000 female green turtles nest each year on Raine Island, but tidal inundation, erosion and sand movement have dramatically changed the landscape, destroying significant numbers of eggs. The island's nesting site was on the brink of collapse.

Mr Seeney interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, member for Callide! I call the minister.

Dr MILES: Over the past year—

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, one moment please. Member for Glass House, I give notice that if you persist with your interjections I will make a ruling under standing order 253A. I call the minister.

Dr MILES: Those opposite are rightly aware that over the past year the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, along with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, have undertaken a trial sand re-profiling exercise on about 10 per cent of the available nesting area on the island.

Mr Seeney interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, Minister. Member for Callide, I give notice that if you persist with your interjections I will make a ruling under standing order 253A. I call the minister.

Dr MILES: This was the most extensive adaptive management works ever undertaken by the Queensland government and the results were very promising. Over the past breeding season, 46 per cent of the breeding turtles successfully nested in the re-profiled area, compared with 27 per cent in other areas.

Today, I am also pleased to announce that our groundbreaking work on Raine Island will continue at greater speed thanks to the generosity of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation and BHP Billiton. Thanks to our new partners, we will be able to invest \$5.4 million over the next five years to undertake more beach engineering works, replenish sand, erect new fencing to save adult turtles and build a knowledge base to assist guide conservation efforts elsewhere. We will also be able to monitor wave, tide and sea levels within the turtle nesting areas, and we will be able to erect remote cameras to record inundation events and turtle nesting and hatching success.

Let me acknowledge that the initial pilot program of recovery on Raine Island was commenced under the previous government. I especially acknowledge the work of the member for Buderim, who I know was personally passionate for this pilot, but I am especially pleased to announce today that the Palaszczuk Labor government can implement the full program thanks to this very substantial investment by BHP and the great work of the reef foundation. We are proud of our record on the reef and proud to deliver partnerships with Australian companies to deliver conservation outcomes. I acknowledge the ongoing work of my department's scientists and rangers who, along with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and traditional owners and now with the very significant assistance from the Great Barrier Reef Foundation and BHP Billiton, are saving this iconic ancient mariner for generations to come.