



Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**


**MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA**

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Great Barrier Reef

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (9.48 am): Late last Friday night the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO released its draft decision on whether or not to list the Great Barrier Reef as World Heritage in Danger. I am pleased to report that the draft decision is a positive one. There are no references to the reef being listed as in danger and in fact the committee has praised Queensland and Australia for how we responded to the committee's concern about the state of the reef. The UNESCO draft decision is a strong endorsement of this government and its policies on protecting the reef.

**Mr Seeney** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Callide, if you persist I will issue a ruling under standing order 253A and you can leave the chamber.

**Dr MILES:** The UNESCO draft decision is a strong endorsement of this government's policies on protecting the reef and the progress that we have made already in implementing these commitments. We came into government with a plan to reverse the decline in the health of the reef, to boost its health and to build its resilience so that generations to come will be able to enjoy its extraordinary natural wonder.

The draft decision singles out and welcomes key policies of the Palaszczuk government, such as its goal to improve the quality of water running into the reef by reducing run-off pollution by 80 per cent; the reversal of the plan to dump capital dredge spoil from the proposed Abbot Point expansion onto to the reef and the commitment to ban the dumping of capital dredge spoil in the whole World Heritage area; and the confirmed commitment to protect greenfield areas by restricting major new port developments in and adjoining the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area by limiting capital dredging for the development of new or the expansion of existing port facilities to within the existing port limits of the four major ports, excluding the Fitzroy Delta, North Curtis Island and Keppel Bay from future port development.

The Leader of the Opposition tweeted about the draft decision on Saturday and, of course, we welcome his interest. However, he and those others opposite seem to be under the delusion that this result had something to do with the previous government. These policies that UNESCO singled out—the policies that it cited as the reason for its draft decision—are not the policies of the LNP. The LNP opposed these policies. These are the policies that the Labor Party took to the election. These policies were announced by the Premier during the election campaign and for many voters they were the reason they voted Labor. It is a good thing for the reef that they did. This week, the milestones continue. Tomorrow the water science task force will meet for the first time, commencing its vital work to make recommendations on how to achieve that 80 per cent reduction in pollution run-off by 2025.

The UNESCO draft decision is still subject to a formal decision to be made at the World Heritage committee meeting next month. The Deputy Premier and I will personally attend the meeting to report on our continued progress and press the case that our plan for the reef is sound and that our commitment to delivering the plan is absolute.