




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Inskip Point

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (9.58 am): I am pleased to announce that the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service has reopened Inskip Peninsula Recreation Area campsites in time for the busy holiday camping season. This comes after a sinkhole opened up on the beach in late September. We now know from our geotechnical engineers that it was technically a retrogressive breach flow slide. This is where a large body of sand moves quickly, forming a small cliff that moves rapidly inshore as the sand debris moves out to sea. Although in this instance we do not know what caused it, we have put measures in place to make sure holiday-makers stay safe this Christmas. Safety is always our first priority, and QPWS has established a no-camping buffer zone and a no-drive zone along sections of beach in high-risk areas after considering the engineer's report.

Rainbow Beach is well known to Queenslanders as the gateway to some of the most amazing natural attractions found anywhere in the world. I recognise the importance of camping to the many families who make their annual pilgrimage to Inskip over the Christmas holidays and contribute to the local Rainbow Beach economy. I can assure both local businesses and visitors that there will be plenty of capacity at Inskip Point Recreation Area throughout summer, with space available for up to 2,400 campers at Inskip and further capacity for campers in nearby areas at Teewah Beach and on Fraser Island. The previous maximum camper booking capacity at Inskip has rarely been approached, with only approximately three days in a good year exceeding 2,400 campers.

My message to the campers who will spend their holidays there is to have a great time but please remember to follow all warning signs. In front of the buffer zone we have temporarily closed high-risk beach areas where people should not drive or park, pending further consultation. People can still walk along that section of beach, and keeping it free of vehicle traffic will improve visitor safety on the beach. There is a temporary barrier in place defining the buffer zone, and QPWS expects to have installed a permanent low fence as well as safety, regulatory and interpretive signage by Christmas. The buffer zone will have minimal impact on the number of campers who love Inskip, and we are looking forward to another great summer camping season.