




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

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Record of Proceedings, 6 September 2017

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Threatened Species

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (2.39 pm): Tomorrow is National Threatened Species Day and this year in Queensland—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Dr MILES:** There are a few threatened species in this House, but I am focused on some others. We have much to celebrate: the recent arrival of a rare wombat joey in St George, we have removed all the feral cats from the bilby enclosure in Currawinya and we have made huge strides in growing the population of bridled nail-tail wallabies. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service rangers play a vital front-line role protecting threatened species. Their work has been critical in the protection of the golden shouldered parrot in Cape York, the spotted tail quolls in North Queensland, the green turtles on Raine Island and brown parrots on Fraser Island just to name a few. The Palaszczuk government is committed to protecting and expanding habitat for our native species.

Of course, the best way to create more ambassadors for our native wildlife is to get more people into our national parks. That is why we are investing \$40 million in world-class infrastructure for our parks that will make them rival Tasmania's, but none of this would be possible without our rangers. Our park rangers do an amazing job right across our incredibly diverse national parks. They manage the risks of fire and pests, they maintain our boardwalks and walking tracks and they help the public who visit our parks and campgrounds. In an emergency in a remote area they can often be the first people on the scene and when severe weather strikes like Cyclone Debbie they are left with a mammoth clean-up job. We saw how quickly our rangers got the Whitsundays back up and running in time for Easter after that cyclone, minimising the impact on the local tourist industry.

I am proud to say that the Palaszczuk government has rebuilt our ranger workforce after the Newman-Nicholls sacking spree, because we acknowledge what a vital service they provide to our state. When the member for Clayfield was treasurer he cut \$10 million from the salaries budget for the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. That meant that when permanent rangers left, their positions were left vacant. It meant fewer rangers working on our parks, fewer rangers to do controlled burns and stop fire hazards, fewer rangers to manage pests and weeds that affect our farmers, and fewer rangers to protect our native wildlife. Just today the RSPCA released a report that shows rescues of forest dependent wildlife in Queensland more than tripled as a result of the policies of the member for Clayfield.

The Palaszczuk government protects vital habitat; the LNP just cuts it down. We rebuild front-line services; Tim Nicholls cuts front-line services. We have invested in more front-line staff to protect this state's natural and cultural treasures. Today, ahead of National Threatened Species Day, I want to thank our park rangers for the wonderful work they do.