




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

---

Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2017

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (9.59 am): The Palaszczuk government is working with traditional owners to protect Queensland's most amazing natural areas and expand local job opportunities in Indigenous communities. Queensland's traditional owners have been caring for country for 40,000 years and, as the traditional custodians of our land, they bring a wealth of knowledge about how to manage that land. That is why, in government, the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program is one of my favourite programs.

This year we are funding 25 more Indigenous land and sea rangers, giving young traditional owners the chance to work on country, delivering environmental benefits and creating new tourism experiences. Today I am pleased to announce that expressions of interest for the first round of new Indigenous land and sea ranger positions across Queensland are now open. This will build on the 76 full-time rangers who are currently employed across 17 communities in North, Central, Western and South-East Queensland.

I am also pleased announce the opportunity for Indigenous groups to apply for new funding. Through the Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups will have access to grants, training and mentoring support to establish new land and sea ranger teams. Our Indigenous land and sea rangers contribute greatly to the protection of Queensland's important ecosystems and Indigenous cultural heritage. The program also provides jobs and promotes economic opportunities associated with land and sea management.

When I visit remote Aboriginal communities and ask the kids there what they want to be when they grow up, so often they say that they want to be a ranger. The Palaszczuk government is proud to support this program that continues to deliver benefits for Indigenous communities and for the conservation of Queensland's most valuable landscapes.