




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 8 March 2018

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Land Restoration Fund

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerster—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (2.57 pm): During the 2017 state election the Palaszczuk government took to the people of Queensland a visionary commitment to establish a \$500 million Land Restoration Fund. This fund is the government's flagship environmental commitment to directly support land sector carbon projects in Queensland while creating new jobs in a growing industry. This initiative is about leveraging emerging carbon markets to supply high-quality offsets and delivering important environmental, economic and social benefits. These co-benefits could include greater agricultural productivity, koala habitats, protection of threatened species, as well as rehabilitating and restoring wetlands and waterways.

As well as facilitating a pipeline of qualifying Queensland based carbon offset projects and pursuing co-benefits, this \$500 million commitment will support research and development into areas where Queensland has a comparative advantage for generating carbon credits.

I am pleased to update the House that, in collaboration with my colleague the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, work has now commenced to implement the Land Restoration Fund. A time limited project management office is being established in my department, the Department of Environment and Science, with expertise drawn from across government. The immediate priorities of the project management office are to establish an expert advisory panel which will develop options for the fund's design, engage with our land conservation and science sectors on priorities for research and development and work with all sectors, including the investment and finance community, to develop and draft the investment strategy for the fund.

The Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of delivering this important election commitment and protecting our state's unique environment for generations of Queenslanders to come. This investment in the Land Restoration Fund is another example of how the Palaszczuk government is tackling climate change through science.

In contrast, we note the federal coalition government's appalling neglect of climate science. In fact, in the Turnbull government we have seen the science portfolio cast off to an assistant minister who does not have a voice at the cabinet table. I wonder if those opposite have spoken to their federal LNP colleagues about this blatant disregard of climate science. Have they picked up the phone to discuss the vital importance of robust science to help combat climate change? Will those opposite stand up for Queensland climate scientists and the valuable work they do to help protect our natural assets, such as the Great Barrier Reef? Are they comfortable with the Prime Minister and their colleagues in Canberra continuing to ignore the science of climate change?

Whilst I am on my feet, I acknowledge that last night many members from my electorate of Algester joined Minister Di Farmer and many other ministers to celebrate at the Queensland Women's Week reception.

(Time expired)