




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Budget, Great Barrier Reef

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (9.58 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to the protection of the Great Barrier Reef for future generations. This has consistently been a priority for our government, and in the budget the Treasurer handed down yesterday our commitment continues.

As the minister for the Great Barrier Reef, I am proud to say that in this year's budget we are increasing our investment in the reef to a record \$330 million over five years. This boost of \$39.8 million over the next four years consists of an additional \$26 million for the joint field management program and an additional \$13.8 million for the Queensland Reef Water Quality Protection Program. The joint field management program, delivered in partnership with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, is at the front line of reef protection. Through this program rangers are taking practical actions to monitor the reef's condition and maintain its ecosystems. In addition, the program provides and maintains essential visitor facilities at the reef's iconic destinations that support world's best ecotourism opportunities and the reef's more than \$6 billion tourism industry.

The additional funding, when coupled with the Australian government's matching contribution, will see an extra 75 field officers and rangers patrolling the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area. These rangers do vital work in maintaining island and marine ecosystems, including monitoring and reducing reef damage. While I note the federal government's contribution to the reef, let me say—as I always do—that notwithstanding this commitment, what the reef really needs from Malcolm Turnbull and his government is action on climate change. I implore those opposite to call on their federal LNP colleagues to show national leadership on climate change policy.

Reef water quality remains a key priority for the Palaszczuk government, with over \$261 million to be invested over five years. Science demonstrates that land based run-off from adjacent catchments is a major cause of the current poor state of many of our coastal and marine ecosystems. As a government we are doing everything we can to improve the quality of water flowing to the reef. The \$13.8 million boost in this budget will be used to support agricultural industries in reef catchments to more rapidly transition to practice standards which limit the amount of nutrients and sediment in farm run-off as well as sustained farm productivity and profitability. The Palaszczuk government is investing in unprecedented action to ensure the long-term health of the reef for generations of Queenslanders to come.