




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 23 August 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Great Barrier Reef, Transshipping Bulk Materials

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.00 am): Protecting the Great Barrier Reef is one of the Palaszczuk government's six key Advancing Queensland priorities. I am delighted today to release the government's policy on the transshipping of bulk materials which will protect the Great Barrier Reef and the environmental values of the state's marine environment. The policy delivers on our 2015 election commitment and restricts transshipping operations within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area to areas wholly inside the boundaries of declared ports that sit outside of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

This policy forms one part of an extensive package of measures being implemented by the government to protect the Great Barrier Reef. It complements the government's commitments under the Reef 2050 Plan and the Sustainable Ports Development Act 2015 which aim to protect the reef by concentrating port development within pre-existing areas. The policy is careful to avoid unnecessary impacts on communities and does not limit transshipping that includes the supply of essential services to remote communities, marine emergency response practices, the movement of cargo between vessels while docked in a port and refuelling activities. In addition, the policy does not apply to packaged or containerised goods at any volume or to bulk materials where the quantity handled is under 100 tonnes per day.

In developing this policy, extensive consultation was undertaken, with consideration of 2,246 submissions outlining a range of diverse views. More than 2,200 of these submissions called for limits to transshipping within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and a ban on transshipping within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. This transshipping policy recognises the multiple pressures the reef already faces and is a vital part of the government's package of measures to protect the reef's resilience. It delivers another of our Reef 2050 Plan actions.

The Premier and I attended the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum meeting with the Australian government on 19 July 2018. The forum approved a revised Reef 2050 Plan following its midterm review. Importantly, in response to concerns raised by the Queensland government and conservation groups, the plan now references climate change—an important amendment which recognises this significant threat to the reef.

The forum also approved the new Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan and the Reef 2050 Cumulative Impact Management Policy and Net Benefit Policy. The outcomes of the ministerial forum demonstrate the importance that is placed on protecting the Great Barrier Reef and the significant amount of resources being invested in this space.