



Speech By  
**Hon. Leeanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **National Biodiversity Month**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.10 am): It gives me great pleasure to update the House on National Biodiversity Month, which is held in September each year and promotes the importance of protecting, conserving and improving biodiversity within Queensland and Australia. This government is committed to ensuring the long-term survival of our unique wildlife and ecosystems throughout Queensland through a broad range of programs.

Last November, we celebrated 50 years of turtle research at the Mon Repos Turtle Centre under the leadership of Dr Col Limpus. The continuous data collection for a single threatened species, the loggerhead turtle, is a unique and outstanding achievement recognised by the scientific community worldwide and contributes greatly to management actions that have dramatically reduced the decline and supported the recovery of marine turtle populations.

The Department of Environment and Science is also working with the Wet Tropics Management Authority, local councils, community and NRM groups, and traditional owners to preserve and protect the unique values within the Wet Tropics World Heritage area—an ancient ecosystem that is ranked second among World Heritage sites for its irreplaceable endemic, rare and threatened species. I have been told that there is more biodiversity in one square kilometre of the Daintree than there is in the whole of North America. That is how incredible our biodiversity is in this state.

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, along with traditional owners and our Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program, are maintaining the amazing diversity of plants, animals and ecosystems found in Queensland's national parks. Many private landholders are also playing a vital role in protecting the state's biodiversity through the Nature Refuges Program.

During National Biodiversity Month, I am also reminded that the Palaszczuk government's nation-leading vegetation management laws will do so much to protect the essential terrestrial habitat of species such as the koala and also the Great Barrier Reef and its amazing marine life and ecosystem. Shamefully, as we have seen proven here, those opposite would tear up legislation and regulation that protects rare plants and ecosystems in Queensland.

National Biodiversity Month reminds us to stop to appreciate the different plants, animals and microorganisms that are unique to Queensland and the terrestrial marine and freshwater ecosystems of which they are a part.