



Speech By  
**Hon. Leeanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 31 October 2018

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Mon Repos Turtle Centre, Redevelopment**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.09 am): The bells will ring in Bundaberg today to announce that the first turtle has come ashore at Mon Repos Beach. Mon Repos supports the largest concentration of nesting marine turtles on the eastern Australian mainland and is home to the most significant loggerhead turtle nesting population in the South Pacific region.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Broadwater, you are warned under standing orders. There is no need for those interjections.

**Ms ENOCH:** With the beginning of turtle season upon us, it is wonderful to be able to update the House on progress to redevelop the Mon Repos Turtle Centre near Bundaberg. Earlier this month I was in Bundaberg and was able to see firsthand how the work is progressing. The new visitor centre at the Mon Repos Conservation Park will provide a state-of-the-art immersive experience for visitors with a full upgrade of park facilities. Construction is providing a boost for local jobs and businesses which is great news for Bundaberg.

The Palaszczuk government is investing more than \$16 million in total in this wonderful redevelopment which is being conducted over two stages. The first stage includes the main building works and the second stage will include additional improvements to accessibility and visitor facilities. The economic benefits of this project will not just underpin the local tourism industry but flow right throughout the community.

Set to reopen in time for the 2019 turtle season, the new turtle centre will give visitors an exciting eco-based tourism experience all-year round even outside of turtle season. Visitors can encounter turtles nesting and hatching on Mon Repos shores between November and March each year, with the nightly turtle encounter tours starting on 9 November.

Mon Repos is one of many infrastructure projects being undertaken by the Palaszczuk government to enhance facilities for visitors wanting to experience what Queensland's environment has to offer. I cannot wait to see the final product.