




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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ADJOURNMENT

Climate Week

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (7.02 pm): Last week history was made in this state and in Australia when Queensland hosted the very first Climate Week. More than 30 events were held from Brisbane to Cairns as part of Climate Week and World Environment Day, bringing action on climate change to the forefront and facilitating important discussions about how we can all work together towards a sustainable future.

More than 10,000 people from across Queensland were engaged in Climate Week activities, which ranged from the inaugural First Nations Climate Summit, which brought together traditional owners to discuss how we can use ancient knowledge in addressing climate change, to the Natural Capital Summit, which brought together farmers, researchers and finance representatives in a discussion about how the industry can best transition to a low-carbon, sustainable future.

In addition, thousands more were engaged in regional activities like Ecofest in Gladstone, which is Central Queensland's largest free environmental event; an outdoor climate concert in Townsville; a catchments community breakfast in Yeppoon; Ecofiesta in Cairns; and even a tree planting in Mount Isa. Here in Brisbane we hosted leaders from across the Asia-Pacific region who made a commitment to foster ongoing Asia-Pacific dialogue on climate action. Brisbane also hosted the Climate Reality leadership training, led by Nobel Peace Prize recipient Al Gore, which included more than 500 people who had travelled from interstate and overseas and injected \$1.6 million into the local economy.

There is no doubt that the Palaszczuk government is leading the way to address climate change as both an environmental and an economic issue. It has been heartening to hear from people who participated in the events, saying Climate Week was a vital step in working together towards a better future. The Hon. Taefu Lemi, Samoa's associate minister from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, spoke about how climate change was impacting on the islands of Samoa and said that an initiative like Climate Week 'comes from leaders that have foresight and have a heart for the region and for the country'. First nations climate leadership group member Leann Wilson, who was part of the First Nations Climate Summit, said—

This week was an opportunity to come together, to listen and learn from each other's stories ... It was very exciting to be a part of.

Similarly, Melbourne councillor Cathy Oke, chair of the environment portfolio, said that Climate Week was 'an opportunity to forefront traditional knowledge as well as the impact of climate change on our first nations people and their culture'.

One of the key events during Queensland's first Climate Week was the Minister's Climate Challenge, with more than 5,000 Queensland students submitting an entry into the challenge and offering their ideas to solve local climate problems. It is clear that our young people are passionate about taking action in order to protect our environment. It shows that we are never too young to innovate and play a role in global action.

When it comes to climate change, we are at a tipping point. It was clear from last Friday's meeting of treasurers and the CEDA lunch that people recognise that climate change is also a core economic issue. We know that urgent action is needed, and the Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to climate change action.