



Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGEES

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

National Parks, Projects

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.12 am): The Palaszczuk government is delivering the infrastructure and services our growing state needs. Our Big Build is delivering hospitals, schools, roads and energy infrastructure, but it is also providing new and enhanced infrastructure in our national parks and forests. We are improving access to and experiences in our national parks and forests for locals and tourists and, at the same time, creating jobs, particularly in regional and rural Queensland.

The Palaszczuk government's 2023-24 budget includes an investment of \$58.9 million to deliver visitor infrastructure, management facilities and plant and equipment to protect and promote our protected areas. We are investing \$6.3 million on the Ngaro track, a multi-day walk in the Whitsunday Islands National Park, for track enhancements, campsites and water points. This project promotes nature-based and World Heritage tourism experiences and has been developed in consultation with Ngaro traditional owner representatives.

Other significant Big Build investments also include: \$16.4 million for multiple upgrades to visitor facilities across Springbrook National Park; \$9.2 million for Central Station day use area upgrades at K'gari National Park; and \$7.8 million for upgrades to the information hub, car park and other amenities at Girraween National Park.

We are investing \$6 million to replace the Jindalba boardwalk at Daintree National Park. The project will provide disability car parking, universal access to amenities and a new class 1 walking track. We are investing \$6.7 million at Crater Lakes National Park, with a new universal access walk to the magnificent twin kauris at Lake Barrine. Further works will include a significant redevelopment of the Lake Eacham day use area and walking tracks that will provide universal access throughout the site including down and into the water for recreation, greatly improving the experience for all park users.

At Bunya Mountains National Park in the South Burnett region, we are investing \$5.5 million. We have recently completed the upgrade of the Burton's Well campground and day use area and the Paradise car park, and planning is now underway for the redevelopment of the Dandabah day use area and campground. This project will include a new visitor hub to enhance visitors' experiences and increase universal access throughout the site. In the Townsville region, we will invest \$4.7 million into the heritage-listed Cape Pallarenda Quarantine Station hospital precinct as part of our plan to re-establish a permanent site presence.

The Palaszczuk government's Big Build in our national parks and forests is expected to directly support around 170 good jobs as well as numerous local businesses. We know that more and more Queenslanders—and interstate and international tourists—are getting out and about and revelling in our truly spectacular national parks and forests. Through the Palaszczuk government's Big Build, we are making it easier for everyone to enjoy Queensland's beautiful natural places.