




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Protected Areas, Investment

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation) (10.32 am): The Miles government's Big Build is delivering new and enhanced infrastructure in our national parks and other protected areas and, at the same time, it is supporting good local jobs in communities across Queensland. Our national parks and other protected areas conserve areas of high environmental value and provide habitat for thousands of species, including those that are threatened and endangered. They also provide inexpensive recreation opportunities for Queenslanders and breathtaking experiences for tourists.

This year our government will invest more than \$187 million of capital expenditure across our considerable national park and forest portfolio. This includes the delivery of new land acquisitions, visitor infrastructure, management facilities and plant and equipment to manage, protect and promote visitation to these areas. Across the state, there are multiple infrastructure projects underway. Work is almost complete on the Tewanin Tinbeerwah day-use area with \$575,000 invested to upgrade facilities including the car park and amenities. The Andrew's Point walking track has been upgraded at Cape Hillsborough National Park. That is a \$465,000 project to address the eroded and steep sections of the trail. Projects have been completed in the Great Sandy National Park, including a \$400,000 upgrade to the bridges at Harry's Hut to further enhance visitor access to the site along the iconic Noosa River camping area. Those works were undertaken in collaboration with the local Gubbi Gubbi traditional owner group.

On Bribie Island, \$890,000 is being invested in amenities at the Poverty Creek Campground, which are due for completion later this year. Work will soon start at Wooroonooran National Park's iconic Josephine Falls, with upgrades to the car park, amenities boardwalk and viewing platforms as part of an investment of more than \$2 million to improve visitor experiences and offer safe access. Planning work has begun on the \$2.6 million redevelopment of the nocturnal house at David Fleay Wildlife Park, including a funding contribution from Friends of Fleay's. Construction is forecast to commence in the coming months.

At Queen Mary Falls in the Main Range National Park, work has commenced on the planning for a \$1.3 million upgrade of the day-use area steps and circuit track. Planning for the redevelopment of the Wallaman Falls camping area is underway in close consultation with the Warrgamay people. Over the coming years, \$2 million will be invested to improve the site for park visitors. The Miles government is also supporting rangers on the ground by fast-tracking staff accommodation at K'gari, Taunton and Blackbraes through the engagement of QBuild to deliver modular housing solutions. That is an investment of over \$4.1 million.

My department is committed to achieving zero net emissions by 2030. As a part of this commitment the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service is looking at ways to reduce emissions by implementing more energy efficient appliances, solar power and alternative energy storage systems. Multiple projects are underway to transition from grid supplied electricity to solar systems at the Boonah, Bribie Island, Taunton, Princess Hills, Maleny, Tewantin and Charters Towers ranger bases.

The Miles government's investment in our national parks and forests is expected to directly support around 156 jobs, as well as numerous local businesses. These infrastructure projects are focused on improving access and experiences for park users. This will provide social and economic benefits, particularly in regional and rural Queensland. The Miles Labor government is committed to delivering new and enhanced infrastructure throughout our national parks and protected areas that will allow more Queenslanders and tourists to enjoy those unique and beautiful areas.