

**Question on Notice
No. 755
Asked on 18 June 2004**

QUESTION:

MR MULHERIN asked the Minister for Environment (Mr Mickel)—

Will he provide an update on the current status of Eungella National Park “Great Walks Project”?

ANSWER:

The Mackay Highlands Great Walk is part of the State Government’s \$10 million Great Walks of Queensland initiative.

The Mackay Highlands Great Walk is due for completion in December 2005. As the Member for Mackay recognises, the Mackay Highlands Great Walk will create new ecotourism opportunities and generate jobs in the Mackay region.

Work on the \$1.4m Great Walk is progressing well. The focus of the project to date has been the development of the existing track network at Eungella. To date eight old wooden bridges on the existing track system have been replaced with new bridges, the Pine Grove Track (about three kilometres) has been completely reconstructed and resurfaced, and minor repairs and resurfacing has been completed on about five kilometres of walking tracks.

The project has provided a boost to the local economy with over \$100,000 of contracts awarded to local contractors to date

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) has been working with the Department of Main Roads and the Mirani Shire to find a viable option for the section of walking track between Sky Window and the Palm Grove walking track entrance. The final designs are currently being completed with work on the road realignment and the link track scheduled to commence in mid August 2004 and be completed by the end of September 2004.

Planning and design work has been completed for the four camping nodes along the route:

- the Fern Flat campground at Broken River is being redeveloped to provide camping for people using the Mackay Highlands Great Walk;
- a new campground is being constructed at Crediton Hall in partnership with the Mirani Shire Council and the local Crediton community;
- two new camping areas are being constructed at Denham Range in Crediton State Forest and at Moonlight Dam in Homevale National Park; and
- tenders are expected to be called in the near future for the construction of the facilities at Fern Flat and Crediton Hall, with work expected to be completed around the end of September 2004. The QPWS expects the

construction of the two smaller toilets at Denham Range and Moonlight Dam should be completed around the end of September 2004.