

**Question on Notice
No. 875
Asked on 25 May 2006**

QUESTION:

MS JARRATT asked the Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women (Ms Boyle)—

Will she provide information describing how the cultural heritage assessment pilot project in the Mackay-Whitsunday region will benefit my constituents in Whitsunday?

ANSWER:

The cultural heritage assessment pilot project will give the community an opportunity to identify heritage places that are significant to them. Places identified in the assessment that are eligible for entry on the Queensland Heritage Register will be protected. Knowing which heritage places are important to the community will help us to strike a balance between the future development needs of the region and retaining a sense of the past that gives character to the region.

The assessment will help us avoid the situation where a heritage place is nominated to the register at the last minute to frustrate development. This situation does not serve the community well. Developers become frustrated and so does the community. The assessment process will be a big step in the right direction towards the retention of our special heritage places.

Information collected about heritage places from research and discussions with the community will also be provided to the local governments in the assessment region ensuring that the information is retained locally for the community's benefit.