

**Question on Notice
No. 1006
Asked on 7 August 2007**

QUESTION:

MS LEE LONG asked the Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism (Ms Nelson-Carr)—

What progress has been made on the construction of the Ma:Mu Rainforest Canopy Walk project in the Wooroonooran National Park on the Palmerston Highway near Innisfail?

ANSWER:

Considerable progress has been made on the construction of the Ma:Mu Canopy Walk, Innisfail in the Wooroonooran National Park since the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) signed a fixed price contract with Hutchinsons Builders (HB) in late March 2007. Key milestones are on target including starting dates for footing excavations, construction of the exit lane from the Palmerston Highway, construction of the car park, and construction of administration buildings. The project is on schedule for final completion in June 2008.

A contract for interpretive material has been offered by the QPWS to the Ma:Mu Aboriginal Corporation. Discussions are ongoing with the Ma:Mu people about Art Built-in (a Queensland Government Policy to incorporate art works into major capital works projects), finalising an Indigenous Land Use Agreement, and involvement in ancillary development on the freehold land adjacent to the national park.

The QPWS has also prepared a draft Expression of Interest (EOI) document to seek private sector involvement in the operation, maintenance and promotion of the facility. The EOI is expected to be publicly released within the next month.

To reach this point, the QPWS has undertaken a cultural heritage assessment, an environmental review, geotechnical investigations, botanical surveys, arrangements for the rezoning of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and development approval from the Johnstone Shire Council.