

Question on Notice

No. 652

Asked on Thursday, 19 April 2007

MR ENGLISH MP asked the Minister for Communities, Minister for Disability Services Queensland, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Seniors and Youth (**MR PITT**) –

With reference to the Brisbane Place project planned for the Southern Moreton Bay Islands which the Bay Islands community is very enthusiastic about – Will he provide an update on the progress of this fantastic initiative?

ANSWER:

The Southern Moreton Bay islands area is one of three communities in which I have approved the initiation of a project under phase two of the Brisbane Place Program. This project is being undertaken in association with place initiatives in Stafford and Pine Rivers.

The Southern Moreton Bay Islands Place Project aims to improve the lives of residents on Russell, Macleay, Karragarra and Lamb islands by enhancing their access to an appropriate range of community support services. Residents on these islands currently have limited access to services, due in part to the relatively small scale of their population base and in part to transport costs incurred in getting to and from the mainland.

The project will also endeavour to enhance the capacity of the Redlands community to cope with the impact of the rapid population growth predicted to occur over the next decade in the adjacent mainland suburbs of Thornlands, Victoria Point and Redland Bay.

The Place project is firmly based on the development of positive partnerships with and between the three levels of government and with local business and community stakeholders. It will seek to significantly improve the level of collaboration between those stakeholders in relation to their needs based planning and service development activities. In this way, the project will seek to ensure the delivery of better targeted responses to high priority community needs, such as improved community safety and crime prevention, a wider range of training and employment opportunities for at risk young people, and enhanced access to family and community support services.

In undertaking its Place activities, the department is conscious of the need to secure the input of local residents, community organisations and the shire council. Towards this end, departmental staff are currently involved in active discussions with their colleagues in a number of other state agencies and with representatives from the Redland Shire Council and several locally based community organisations, to scope the project and to identify potential project opportunities, challenges and priorities. This engagement process will continue and expand over the coming months and throughout the project's life.

I would take this opportunity to acknowledge the support that my colleague Mr John English MP, the Member for Redlands, has given to the Place project and I thank him for the advice he has provided to departmental staff in their current scoping activities.

I believe that the Southern Moreton Bay Islands Place Project and the Brisbane Place Program, as a whole, demonstrates my department's strong commitment to working with local stakeholders to appropriately identify community needs and to actively engage with local people to plan and develop well targeted and well coordinated community services.