

**Question on Notice  
No. 709  
Asked on Tuesday 22 May 2007**

**QUESTION:**

MRS MENKENS asked the Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism (Ms Nelson-Carr)—

With reference to her explanation last sitting that the closure of up to 25km of Fraser Island Beaches to vehicular traffic would provide significant benefits for visiting families—

(1) How will families with small children access this 25km of beach that she admits is already in pristine condition?

(2) Does she expect families to hike up to 12km or will she now admit that this closure is just another attempt to further deny public access to Fraser Island's beaches?

**ANSWER:**

The section of beach referred to is 18km long, not 25km.

In preparation for closing this section of beach to vehicular traffic, the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service has designated three low-key camping areas and constructed two day-use parking areas adjacent to the beach. No one will be required to hike up to 12km.

This means that, together with access from the southern and northern ends, there are seven access points along the 18km stretch of beach.

The subject of hiking, which you mentioned in your question, highlights the Government's \$1 million commitment to construct a new Great Walk in Cooloola Section of the Great Sandy National Park; an 18km vehicle-free section of beach, complete with self-sufficient camping opportunities that will also provide an ideal link to the existing Fraser Island Great Walk which starts at Dilli Village.

Creating a vehicle-free section of beach has nothing to do with denying public access. Instead, it is about re-claiming a small part of Fraser Island for families, children, fishers, campers and hikers to enjoy themselves in a beautiful environment without the intrusion and danger imposed by vehicles speeding along the beach at 80kph or more.