

**Question on Notice
No. 799
Asked on Thursday 24 May 2007**

QUESTION:

MR McNAMARA asked the Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism (Ms Nelson-Carr)—

Will she advise what capital works projects the Department of Environment has undertaken on Fraser Island recently to ensure that this precious world heritage listed area has adequate facilities for visitors and island staff?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government takes seriously its obligations towards protecting and enhancing iconic World Heritage properties in the State, and on Fraser Island the Government has been forging ahead with an extensive capital investment program.

Examples of the major capital works projects the Government has funded over the last three years on Fraser Island are:

- Construction is currently underway on a \$500,000 Visitor Information Centre and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) office at Dundubara. This facility is a Queensland Government election commitment that has been specifically designed to meet the needs of QPWS staff and visitors to the area.
- Also at Dundubara, a \$700,000 project has commenced to install a new state-of-the-art sewage treatment plant to service the campground and adjacent Ranger Base.
- The Eurong Visitor Information Centre and QPWS office has recently been refurbished at a cost of \$430,000. This facility now provides visitor information, a well equipped Incident Control Room and office space for up to 15 staff. The incident control facilities will help QPWS manage a range of emergency situations in collaboration with Police, the State Emergency Service, Rural Fires and the Queensland Ambulance Service.
- \$1 million has been invested in the establishment of the Fraser Island Great Walk, together with \$800,000 spent replacing the Wanggoolba Creek boardwalk, which forms part of the Great Walk route.
- Ranger accommodation on the Island has been upgraded with the provision of 15 new 'eco-efficient' houses at Dundubara and Eurong Ranger Bases, at a capital cost of \$2.1 million. A new \$370,000 sewage treatment plant has also been installed at the Eurong Base.
- The toilet block at popular Eli Creek has been upgraded at a cost of \$110,000, and work to replace the boardwalk on the southern side of Eli Creek is about to commence at an estimated cost of \$500,000.
- \$150,000 has been spent erecting a dingo-deterrant fence that completely surrounds Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village on the western side of Fraser Island. This has been a very successful risk abatement measure at a previous dingo 'hot spot'.

By any measure, this is an impressive list of capital projects. It clearly demonstrates the Queensland Government's on-going commitment to protecting and presenting the outstanding natural values of beautiful Fraser Island for many thousands of visitors to enjoy, both now and in the future.