Question on Notice
No. 306
Asked on Tuesday, 11 March 2008

QUESTION:

Mr Lee asked the Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation (Mr McNamara) — Will he provide details about how the Queensland Youth Environment Council is helping to raise awareness about environmental issues among young people?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Youth Environment Council is working actively on a number of strategic initiatives to raise the awareness of Queensland's youth about environmental sustainability issues like climate change, water security, renewable energy and biodiversity conservation. Council members are also focusing on raising awareness about the necessary responses to effectively address these issues.

For example, Council members are currently designing and developing content for a new, youth-oriented, interactive website. As well as providing useful information on environmental issues, it will seek to inspire and empower Queensland's youth to take action so we can all live more sustainably.

Another key Council initiative under development is a Youth Opinion and Behaviour Survey, which is being designed with key partners including the CSIRO. When completed, the survey will provide us with a stronger picture of the perspectives of young people across Queensland on key environmental issues, and information about their current environmental behaviours. This information will provide important information for future youth environmental engagement programs of the Council and Government. The process of administering the survey should also assist in raising environmental awareness.

These initiatives are being planned for release later this year.

The Council is not waiting for these projects to finish to begin inspiring other youths on environmental issues. On 28 March 2008, members of the Council participated in the Centenary of Parks Celebrations at Witches Falls on Tamborine Mountain by facilitating environmental activities for Queensland secondary school students. The activities were designed to raise awareness about and capture youth perspectives on the value of our National Parks and biodiversity conservation.

More details about the Queensland Youth Environment Council is provided on the EPA's website at:
http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/about_the_epa/queensland_youth_environment_council/.