

**Question on Notice
No. 387
Asked on Thursday, 13 March 2008**

QUESTION:

MRS SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation (Mr McNamara) — Will the Minister report on the progress of the Great Walks Project across the State?

ANSWER:

The *Great Walks of Queensland* program is a \$16.5 million State government investment over ten years to construct a series of ten world class middle-to-long distance walking tracks throughout Queensland's most spectacular parks and forests, including four of our World Heritage Areas.

These tracks aim to provide opportunities for Queensland families and visitors to experience our beautiful protected areas with a healthy, safe and low impact outdoor activity, and to position Queensland as a premier bushwalking destination for the burgeoning adventure tourism market.

I am pleased to report that with the opening of the Gold Coast Hinterland Great Walks in March this year, all six projects from the initial \$10 million investment announced in 2001 have now been completed, and are being well used by Queensland families as well as domestic and international visitors. The other Great Walks already completed are:

- The Fraser Island Great Walk
- The Sunshine Coast Hinterland Great Walk
- The Whitsunday Great Walk
- The Mackay Highlands Great Walk
- The Wet Tropics Great Walk

Building on the success of these already completed Great Walks, in 2006 a further \$6.5 million was announced to construct an additional four new tracks in Cooloola, the Conondale Range, Carnarvon National Park and the Whitsunday Islands.

On-ground construction will commence in earnest this month and next. Some delays have been experienced as a result of the recent flooding in the Carnarvon and Airlie Beach areas which have prevented access for track surveying and infrastructure planning and design.

Estimated completion timeframes for the "More Great Walks" are:

Carnarvon Great Walk
Cooloola Great Walk

Mid 2009
Late 2009

Whitsunday Ngaro Sea Trail
Conondale Great Walk

Late 2009
Mid 2010

Queensland's national park system is one of the state's biggest tourist attractions, hosting about 16 million visits each year and generating substantial economic benefits for all Queenslanders.

These projects aim to provide opportunities to experience our beautiful protected area estate in a healthy, safe and low impact way, but also to position Queensland as a premier bushwalking destination for the burgeoning eco-tourism market.