

## **QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**No. 1409**

**Asked on Wednesday, 7 October**

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MS JARRATT ASKED THE MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY (MS JONES)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide an update on progress of the construction of the Whitsunday's second Great Walk, known as the Ngaro Sea Trail?

ANSWER:

The Ngaro Sea Trail is on track and due for completion this year. The majority of work is now complete with construction continuing on the Cairn track, Sawmill Day Use Area and Solway Lookout. Interpretation material and directional signs are also progressing as planned.

The Whitsunday Ngaro Sea Trail has been constructed over the last two years at a cost of \$1.27M. Once complete, it will provide visitors to this region the opportunity to experience a remarkable journey over land and sea.

In addition, \$2.2M has been invested in upgrading visitor facilities (toilets, viewing platforms, camping areas) at Whitsunday's high-use visitor sites, many of these sites also act as trail heads for the Great Walk.

Following on from the success of the first Great Walk program, a second Great Walk initiative was announced as a 2006 Election Commitment, allocating approximately \$6.5M over four years to develop four new middle to long distance walking tracks. In addition to QPWS rangers, a number of contractors have undertaken the construction of the Ngaro sea trail infrastructure.

Furthermore, sixteen companies, recently submitted an expression of interest to conduct commercial activities associated with the walk. This is the greatest interest for any of the state's Great Walks to date. These applications are currently being assessed.