

Question on Notice
No. 393
Asked on 24 March 2011

MR CHOI asked the Premier and Minister for Reconstruction (MS BLIGH)—

With reference to the recent announcement of the government's intention to restrict mining activities and ultimately cease all mining on Straddie by 2025—

Will the Premier advise how this policy decision paved the way for increased activities for families to utilise the island for recreational activities such as camping and fishing?

ANSWER:

On Sunday, 27 March 2011, the Queensland Government was proud to announce the addition of Naree Budjong Djara National Park on Stradbroke Island to Queensland's protected area estate.

Naree Budjong Djara National Park will significantly raise the profile of North Stradbroke Island, both within and outside south east Queensland, offering new nature-based business development opportunities and more camping opportunities.

This is only the first stage of national park creation. By the end of 2011, half of the island will be protected as national park – with areas that were once reserved for mining becoming available for everyone to enjoy over time.

The new national park is great news for families who enjoy camping and other nature-based activities. Already, the Department of Environment and Resource Management is working with the island's Traditional Owners to plan new walking trails and camping areas. Access to camping and fishing areas remain available at Flinders Beach and Main Beach under the existing conditions.

As the national park expands, so too will the ranger presence in order to ensure that these areas receive the highest level of management. Twelve national park rangers, including Quandamooka rangers, will work on the day-to-day management of the park, including pest animal and plant control, fire management, permits, presentation and facilities. This will mean an improved environment for all to enjoy.

Over the coming years, as mining is phased out and national park areas are declared, more and more of the island will be opened up for visitors to personally experience the untapped natural beauty of Stradbroke Island.