

Remainder incorporated, by leave

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LAI'D UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE
THE CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENT

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Ministerial statement by the Premier

Mr Speaker we are going to make sure that the Noosa River is cared for

A comprehensive blueprint outlining co-ordinated measures to ensure a sustainable future for the Noosa River system has been unveiled.

Last Wednesday I joined Natural Resources Minister Stephen Robertson and Noosa MP Cate Molloy to release the draft *Noosa River Plan 2003* for public consultation.

The Noosa River is a Queensland icon and one of the State's most important waterways.

The Noosa is a relatively natural river system with particularly high environmental and scenic values, a highly sought-after recreation and tourist destination plus an important fisheries resource.

Management of the Noosa River presents complex challenges, however, because of the need to preserve water quality, monitor and enforce rules regarding effluent removal and address tourist activity including use of water craft and noise pollution.

That's why my Government and Noosa Shire Council banded together to produce a plan that ensures we sustainably manage this magnificent river system.

The draft *Noosa River Plan 2003* provides a vision and framework for a co-ordinated and consistent approach to the planning, development and management of public use of the Noosa River system.

The challenge is in striking a balance between the environmental needs of the Noosa River and the tourism, community recreation and industry demands on the system.

The draft plan set out a number of desired environmental outcomes relating to various waterways issues, including bank and bed habitat, water quality, visual amenity, safety and cultural heritage.

It also presents desired environmental outcomes for various river uses and activities, including jetties, moorings, living board vessels, boat ramps, commercial operations and motorised water sports.

There will be extensive community consultation over proposed measures recommended in the draft plan.

Both the Government and the Council are looking forward to a vigorous response when community consultation begins in mid January 2004.

All relevant submissions should be incorporated into the plan by April 2004, after which the plan, including any proposed amendments, will be re-submitted to Cabinet and the Noosa Shire Council for consideration.

Copies of the draft *Noosa River Plan 2003* and other information are available from the Member for Noosa's office and at Noosa Shire Council offices.