

Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability The Honourable Kate Jones
\$5.3 MILLION WORTH OF UPGRADES AND NEW
FACILITIES ON FRASER

Fraser Island is receiving upgrades worth \$5.3 million to boost its appeal as an international tourism destination and guarantee its future as an iconic World Heritage site, Climate Change and Sustainability Minister Kate Jones said today.

Ms Jones told a Fraser Island conference a joint investment of \$5.3 million by the Queensland and Commonwealth governments included \$2.8 million for the island's most iconic destination, Lake McKenzie.

She said the improvements formed part of the Great Sandy Region package currently being implemented by the Bligh Government.

Ms Jones also released a report on recent water quality monitoring which indicate the island's lakes are generally in good health.

"New visitor facilities for Lake McKenzie will ensure it's not loved to death by keeping visitor use truly sustainable," Ms Jones said.

"Tenders for the Lake McKenzie project were called last week with work expected to start in October and be completed in 12 to 18 months.

"The works will include new picnic facilities, shelters, toilets, walkways, roads and parking."

Ms Jones said more than \$2.5 million would be spent on a range of other improvement projects in the World Heritage Area.

"This investment continues to build on infrastructure foundations already laid for the Great Sandy Region and follows a \$250,000 election commitment to improve visitor facilities on the island," she said.

"I recognise that it's essential to continue investing in Fraser Island so it can continue to serve the region as a top tourism destination catering for 350,000 visitors annually."

Ms Jones said State Government funding had provided for key projects already in progress or due to start later this year on Fraser Island including:

- \$88,000 for portable beach camping toilet facilities along the eastern beach ;
- \$766,000 upgrade to Waddy Point campground;
- Upgraded toilet facilities at Central Station campground worth \$470,000.

"In addition, we've budgeted for a \$920,000 solar power system at Dundubara, part-funded by the Commonwealth, to improve the sustainability of park operations," she said.

"These works are in addition to millions of dollars spent by the State Government in recent years on projects such as the new Eli Creek southern boardwalk and upgraded toilet access, Dundubara campground waste treatment system, dingo-deterrent fencing and upgraded vehicle access and parking at several sites."

Ms Jones said investment in Fraser Island complemented the work undertaken at Cooloola.

"Our \$1.3 million investment in the construction of a 90-kilometre Cooloola Great Walk linking the Noosa north shore with Rainbow Beach will provide an amazing gateway for walkers to experience the area," she said.

"The strategic and sustainable planning of Fraser Island and Cooloola's visitor and site infrastructure will see its unique beauty preserved for and enjoyed by many generations to come."