



30 June 2009

Opposition wants seat on Reef Bill taskforce

The State Opposition has asked for a seat on the Reef Bill taskforce that will advise the Bligh Government on how best to implement new legislation designed to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

LNP Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability Glen Elmes said he had written to the Minister today requesting to be included on the taskforce.

“I note that Ms Jones, who will Chair the Reef Bill Taskforce, is going to invite organisations such as Agforce, Canegrowers Queensland and Growcom.

“I have already had detailed discussions with these organisations and others and understand the extreme difficulties their members will face should this legislation ever be implemented.

“Positive dialogue now could help farmers, protect the Reef and perhaps save the government from blundering into a bad policy area,” Glen Elmes said.

“Reef protection is vital and the taskforce needs to reflect the entire range of views on how best this can be achieved.

“The legislation is due to be debated in State Parliament and it would be beneficial to stakeholders, the Government and the Opposition for all views to be on the table so that debate in the Parliament is well-informed and constructive.”

Mr Elmes said despite the initial snub, he looked forward to hearing from the Minister and being advised of the times and dates for the taskforce’s meetings.

Media contact: Glen Elmes 0400.800.114

CB05 Noosa Civic, 28 Eenie Creek Road PO Box 1849, Noosaville BC Q 4566
Ph (07) 5449 8988 FreeCall 1800 818 396 Fax (07) 5449 9719
EMAIL: noosa@parliament.qld.gov.au

