




Speech By
Sandy Bolton

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

Record of Proceedings, 15 May 2019

MOTION

Revocation of State Forest Areas and Dedication of Protected Area

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (3.08 pm): It is with great pleasure that I rise to speak briefly on the revocation of parts of two state forests, Yurol and Ringtail, within the Noosa electorate. This is both the end of a long-held vision and process involving many and the beginning of a new journey where over the next five years a total of 2,400 hectares will join the Tewantin National Park. As we have heard, with only 8.2 per cent of Queensland under conservation and a target of 17 per cent envisioned by 2020, this revocation is a vital addition for both Noosa and Queensland.

Of specific mention is the partnerships between community, industry and two levels of government—the first of its type in Queensland—that made this possible. Noosa Parks Association, the Noosa Shire Council, the Queensland government and HQPlantations identified these connected priority areas for koalas and the significant role this land plays in their recovery actions across Noosa and the broader Sunshine Coast region.

Noosa residents are already asking how long until they will get to enjoy the first walks. Even though it will take five years for the plantation timber to be removed and then roughly 10 years for some height in the native regrowth and plantings through community groups and initiatives, I have no doubt the journey and walks along the way will be appreciated at all stages of growth. This project and partnership is especially important to the current and future generations of our flora and fauna and all Queenslanders who will benefit from venturing through these lands.

I acknowledge and appreciate the points made by the member for Broadwater and the importance of managing these lands, including the wild dogs we have been experiencing. I thank Minister Enoch and those who were previously involved along the way, including Minister Miles, departmental and council staff, HQPlantations, Noosa Parks Association members and volunteers and all who supported these endeavours. They are to be congratulated and should be very proud for making a 25-year-old vision become a reality.