



Speech by

Dr LESLEY CLARK

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

Hansard 26 August 1998

REVOCATION OF STATE FOREST AREAS

Dr CLARK (Barron River—ALP) (2.49 p.m.): I am very happy to second this motion, because this is an excellent example of the type of partnership that we need between local government and the State Government. This is a very sensible approach, as there will be no detrimental effects on the State forest whatsoever and the cycling community of the Gold Coast will benefit. Obviously, the Gold Coast will be promoted when the Asia-Pacific Masters Games are held there. Those sorts of events are of net benefit economically to a region. It is most appropriate that we are working with the Gold Coast City Council to bring about this land swap.

I note that this has taken quite a while to come to fruition. I am sure that today the member for Nerang is breathing a sigh of relief to see this finally happening. Sometimes we become frustrated at the length of time that these sorts of things take. In this case I think there was a change of staff at the council and it was necessary for it to consider a number of significant issues. I note that it has been very cooperative and has met the costs of the survey for the plan that needed to be carried out. It also conducted a species study and funded the relocation of firebreaks. Those discussions took some time. However, the result has been very positive.

I support this sort of arrangement. For example, in my electorate I am hopeful that a group of bow hunters can be relocated into a small part of the State forest. They currently operate in an area that we wish to turn into a conservation park, and they clearly would not be allowed in such an area. Any arrangement that facilitates sporting groups in a way that does not have any detrimental impact on a State forest is obviously very sensible. I am very pleased to support this motion. I wish the cycling fraternity well and I hope that the Asia-Pacific Masters Games is very successful.
