



Speech by

Mr LEN STEPHAN

MEMBER FOR GYMPIE

Hansard 3 March 1999

REVOCATION OF STATE FOREST AREAS

Mr STEPHAN (Gympie—NPA) (4.39 p.m.): This afternoon I will not delay the House unduly. However, I wish to make a few comments about this issue. Every couple of weeks, Neil Buchanan comes into my office wanting to know how long this process is likely to take. Neil Buchanan has been very interested in this matter, and for a very good reason: he wants to be sure that the messmate part of the forest will be utilised and recognised. There is no place either around Gympie or possibly right throughout Queensland that would be better suited to having local people looking after it. For example, forests could be grown at different stages and they could be nurtured for and by the people who will come after us. Neil is about 85 or 86 years old. In addition to his interest in forestry, he is interested in pursuing other opportunities around Gympie.

It gives me great pleasure to say thankyou to the Ministers who have been involved, the present Minister and the previous Minister, Mr Hobbs, who have both taken a lot of interest in this issue. I hope that the project will be as successful as we are expecting it to be.
