



Speech by

**Hon. V. LESTER**  
**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL**

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Hansard 2 March 2000

**INCLUSION OF AREAS IN BRISBANE FOREST PARK**

**Hon. V. P. LESTER** (Keppel—NPA) (3.11 p.m.): It is estimated that almost one and a half million locals and over half a million tourists visit the Brisbane Forest Park each year. The park is indeed an important recreational asset for the people of south-east Queensland. Now, of course, that is going to be increased.

The Minister is well aware that a rally was held on 4 July last year. That rally was attended by a lot of people, including the Minister and me. The people at the rally expressed considerable concern that the access they have had to these parks may no longer be available. In relation to reserves, a spokesman for the Minister said that the State Government would endeavour to ensure that all future recreational areas would be considered in consultation with forest users. The spokesman also said that the Government is considering a new form of tenure with fewer restrictions on recreational use than national parks as an option for the new reserves.

A lot of people use four-wheel drives or go horse riding in these parks. People at the rally I referred to talked about riding and driving routes in parks in Queensland, including Brisbane Forest Park and the D'Aguilar Ranges, Bellthorpe and Kenilworth State Forests. Anne Barlow from Environmental Access for Recreationalists, a group formed in response to the forestry negotiations, wants to raise awareness of the threat. That is why this rally was held. While we obviously support the inclusion of this additional land in this park, we are aware that it puts into place something that was happening anyway. I would be interested to know how we are going to make sure that people have access to these areas in the future. Other than that, we support the inclusion.

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