



Speech by

Hon. D. WELLS

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Hansard 5 December 2002

REVOCATION OF STATE FOREST AREAS

Hon. D. M. WELLS (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Environment) (12.00 p.m.), in reply: I thank honourable members for their support of the motion, in particular the honourable member for Burnett in whose electorate this occurs.

I thank the honourable member for Callide for his 18-minute keynote address on the subject. I appreciate his thoughts and the material that he inserted into his speech. The fact that he gave us such a detailed expatiation of those ideas was much more satisfying than had he given me and the rest of the House the pleasure of the two-minute summation which would have just as neatly encapsulated everything that he said. I nevertheless thank him for his support for the legislation.

I thank the shadow minister for his support for the motion. I assure him that, should he wish a detailed briefing, it will be available to him. If he cares to contact my office I will arrange it for the next time when he is in town. As for the suggestion by the member for Keppel that there was a lack of an environmental impact statement with respect to this, there is no environmental impact in changing lines on a map, and that is all this does. The trees will be in the same place and the birds will sing largely the same songs. The amount that is being transferred out of the Goodnight Scrub National Park is less than the amount that is being transferred in. I can assure the honourable member for Keppel that the quality of the land which is being transferred into the national park is of the same set of values as the land which is being transferred out.

This is a net gain for conservation. There will be much more land in the Goodnight Scrub National Park than there was prior to this series of moves and there will be more funds available for the Environment Department to address the issues of national parks in this area. This is not about building the Paradise Dam; this is about improving the Goodnight Scrub National Park.

Motion agreed to.