



Speech by

**Carolyn Male**

**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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## **REVOCATION OF STATE FOREST AREA**

**Ms MALE** (Glass House—ALP) (3.40 pm): I rise this afternoon to support the revocation of land from the forest estate to enable the route for the Caboolture to Landsborough rail duplication and upgrade to proceed. This project has been through various stages of professional study with a variety of routes being proposed and presented to the local residents during community consultation.

The final route that has been agreed upon provides for a much straighter alignment which allows for increased speed, providing an eight-minute benefit to commuters along this length. Eight minutes saved per trip equates to a travel saving of over an hour per week. Over the course of a working year, a local resident can save 60 hours of travel time. This is 60 hours that they can spend with their families, playing sport or doing something else that they prefer rather than sitting in a train. The project and the revocation from part of Beerburrum State Forest are clearly in the public interest, and there is no practical alternative to the proposal.

The Sunshine Coast and its hinterland is a place where more people are choosing to live. This is to be expected as it is indeed a beautiful part of Queensland. The area has so much to offer people of all ages. I am not saying that just because that was where I grew up and where I now have the privilege to represent. As a consequence of the area's popularity, a strain is placed on the north coast public transport services and infrastructure.

It has been determined that the majority of the desired levels of service cannot be met with the existing rail infrastructure. Hence, an upgrade of the Caboolture to Landsborough section of the main north coast rail line is needed. As I have said, the upgrade will improve the travel time of the Landsborough service, but other improvements for passenger and freight rail services include increased services, more frequent services, increased seating capacity, freight capacity and reliability. The duplication of the line will also eliminate the lay-by waiting which rail commuters often face as they have to allow freight trains to pass. That will be another significant time saving.

I am also looking forward to the elimination of open level crossings at Barrs Road and in the Beerwah town centre. This will provide a safer road environment for local residents and also help to eliminate the congestion that occurs because of train movements through the crossing.

One of the other advantages of an improved public transport system is the incentive it provides to local residents to leave their cars at home and hop on a fast, efficient, reliable service. We all need to look at changing our commuting habits where possible to provide environmental, economic and social benefits to local communities. I try to walk to work wherever possible and catch the train to Brisbane for meetings instead of driving. I always encourage others to do so.

The upgrade will assist in achieving the Integrated Regional Transport Plan public transport mode share targets and will support the objectives of the Regional Framework for Growth Management by promoting the growth of Caboolture as a principal activity centre and Beerwah as a major activity centre under the South East Queensland Regional Plan.

This is a good example of the government being able to deliver beneficial outcomes for the community. With this in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the local communities of

Caboolture and Glass House, as well as the surrounding areas, for their feedback and patience during the Caboolture to Landsborough rail study.

This decision is part of the Queensland government's long-term plan to meet the future needs of the Sunshine Coast as outlined in the South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program 2006-2026.

I strongly support the revocation by regulation of that part of the Beerburrum State Forest specified in this proposal as it is clearly going to deliver big gains for my community and for the Sunshine Coast and hinterland. It is with great pleasure that I rise this afternoon to second the motion that the minister for environment has put.