



Speech by

Hon. Kate Jones

MEMBER FOR ASHGROVE

Hansard Wednesday, 3 June 2009

MOTIONS: REVOCATION OF STATE AREAS (COGNATE DEBATE)

Revocation of State Areas (Cognate Debate)

Hon. KJ JONES (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability) (4.19 pm): I move—

- (1) That this House requests the Governor in Council to revoke by regulation under section 26 of the Forestry Act 1959 the setting apart and declaration as State Forest of the area as set out in the Proposal tabled by me in the House today, viz

Description of area to be revoked

Mt Stowe State Forest (SF365)	Area described as Lot 1 on plan SP223038 and containing an area of about 26.6 hectares as illustrated on the attached plan.
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- (2) That Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability for submission to the Governor in Council.
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- (1) That this House requests the Governor in Council to revoke by regulation under Section 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the dedication of protected areas as set out in the Proposal tabled by me in the House today, viz

Description of area to be revoked

Parts of Calliope Conservation	Areas described as Lot 2 and Lot 3 on plan SP223038 and containing an area of about 23.81 hectares as illustrated on the attached plan.
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- (2) That Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability for submission to the Governor in Council.

I support the revocation of parts of the state forest and conservation park bill. These revocations will help to ensure that the Wiggins Island Coal Terminal project continues on schedule, with completion by the end of 2012. There is substantial support from the coal industry for the terminal project, as the inability to ship the increased volumes of coal from its yet undeveloped resources in the Bowen Basin would have significant financial implications for Queensland and Australia through the loss of export revenue.

While activity in the coal industry may be lower under the current financial circumstances, it is important to ensure that exporting capacity is developed now so that upturn in demand can be accommodated as it occurs. In addition, the Wiggins Island proposal has significant employment opportunities at the local, regional and state levels in both the construction and operational phases. While there will be a loss of about 51 hectares of conservation and forest land, more than 374 hectares of similar land is being made available at no cost for addition to the state forest. This supports the government's policy of a net gain for conservation through offsets for such actions.

The areas being revoked are the minimum necessary and are a logical and practical outcome when all aspects are taken into account. This shows that the government responds to infrastructure needs in a way that places high value on the environment but also acknowledges and encourages the social, economic and sustainable development of the state. I commend the motion to the House.