




Speech by

Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

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NATIONAL PARKS

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.15 pm): This week we have witnessed yet more examples of this tired Bligh Labor government's true record when it comes to protecting our state's most precious resources, our national parks and protected areas. What we have witnessed is that this government, led by the Minister for Environment and Resource Management, is all spin and no substance. It is big on announcements but completely lacking in action.

When they are responsible for not only declaring but also managing our state's natural resources, they need to demonstrate this through the preparation of management plans, the resourcing of rangers, the development and maintenance of amenities, facilities and boundaries, relevant pest management strategies and scientifically based flora and fauna protection. It is not enough to simply make an announcement, have a little photo shoot for the media, lock up the park and throw away the key. That is not conservation. That is not protection. That is environmental vandalism. That is what this tired Bligh Labor government is doing.

In 2010 the Auditor-General delivered a scathing parliamentary report, a report that showed less than one in five protected park areas across the state had management plans. That is in direct contravention of Labor's own laws. Is the minister addressing this abysmal shortfall? No. The minister has literally thrown her hands in the air and admitted defeat, saying that it would take 30 years and \$60 million to complete a plan for every park. Instead of knuckling down and addressing this disastrous situation, the minister is compounding the problem. The minister continues to make announcements of new and expanded national parks and protected areas. But where are the announcements of more park rangers to manage these parks? Where are the announcements of new or updated management plans? Where is the announcement that this government will actually abide by its own conservation laws? The LNP fears that these new parks will not be protected at all. They will be yet more examples of this Bligh Labor government's legacy of environmental vandalism.

Queensland is a state of natural beauty. Queensland offers an attractive and enticing environment and lifestyle. Protecting this natural beauty and investing in Queensland's protected areas is integral to maintaining this lifestyle and leaving a legacy for generations to come. Campbell Newman and the can-do LNP team will be a strong voice for the environment. We will hold Labor to account for its broken promises, waste and lack of action. Unlike this tired Bligh Labor government, Campbell Newman and the LNP team will truly protect our natural resources for the benefit of all Queenslanders.