



Speech by


**Shane Knuth**

**MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE**

Hansard Tuesday, 22 March 2011

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## **MOTION: REVOCATION OF STATE FOREST AREAS**

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—LNP) (7.58 pm): In speaking to the notice of motion relating to revocation of state areas, it needs to be acknowledged that some of these national parks are huge wide open spaces with thick areas of rubber vine, noxious weeds and feral pigs. However, it is important that we provide the traditional Aboriginal owners with assistance and resources in order to manage these areas. The Mitchell-Alice Rivers National Park would be at least 500,000 to 600,000 acres. It is also great that we can provide a system for job creation in order to allow people to make a living from the land. This is obviously welcomed, but it is also very important that we look after our national parks. There are many wild dogs, feral cats and wild pigs in the Mitchell-Alice Rivers National Park and you know that because those pigs are in a national park they will not be touched, they will not be harmed and they will be looked after. However, as I said, it is important that we manage these parks.

The Auditor-General's report stated that only 98 out of the 576 national parks have a management plan. The state government is spending up to \$58 million purchasing more national parks and yet at the same time does not have management plans for the majority of Queensland's national parks. It is a bit of a kick in the guts when the government imposes ERMPs on landowners and enforces them with fines and jail time when the state government cannot lead by example. In one night feral pigs can rip up a quarter of an acre of land like a rotary hoe, and that is one boar pig. They can travel tens of kilometres spreading noxious weeds and diseases from one area to another. This needs to be addressed. Wayne Goss made a big mistake when he tried to ban fishing in national parks many years ago. National parks do belong to the people. As the member for Bundaberg said, we want people to have access to them and to be able to get permits so that they can fish and utilise the quality of life that those parks can offer.