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Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Springbrook National Park

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.44 pm): It is with great thanks that I acknowledge the hard work and commitment of the Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing to expose all elements of the \$40 million Springbrook buy-up. Following recent media coverage ARCS has placed an article featuring prominently on rainforest.org.au seeking to argue against such coverage. ARCS claims the government is in breach of the agreement with ARCS for not supplying a \$10,000 annual grant. Firstly, the agreement only provides for grants for the first five years of the agreement then requires renegotiation. Despite ARCS's claims, I am advised it did receive the grant for 2011-12 and it is required to approach the government following the initial five-year period for renegotiation. It has not done so. The mere idea that ARCS is doing anything pro bono as claimed multiple times online is ludicrous. ARCS would receive on average more than \$50,000 per annum through various government sources. Dr Keto claims she puts 100 hours per week into the project. She then claims she needs personal accommodation in order to deliver this. This accommodation is supplied at the peppercorn rent rate of \$1 for 10 years. Assuming a seven-day week, that is a claimed 14-hour day, each day, Dr Keto claims to spend on the project. It is questionable anyone could deliver on this claimed contribution and it certainly could not be delivered remotely yet she claims to not live on the mountain but in Brisbane. If one does the sums it is painfully obvious that she is either living in Springbrook and doing so on the back of the taxpayers' generosity or she is exaggerating her contribution. Either way it requires an explanation. So what is it? Does Dr Keto enjoy essentially free housing courtesy of the taxpayer or does she not really put in the hours she says she does? I call on Dr Keto to release the details of who is staying at Springbrook permanently or regularly in ARCS controlled properties in Springbrook National Park and for how long they have done so and what benefit the state is receiving from such generosity.

Questions were raised last week regarding a potential conflict of interest with regard to ARCS and its buy-up. Dr Keto claims a conflict cannot exist without benefit and that ARCS receives none. I hold here the Biodiversity Fund round 1 for Queensland for 2011-12, which is three years of funding for \$270,000, and I table the document.

Tabled paper: Australian Government: Clean Energy Future—Biodiversity Fund Round 1, Queensland [\[3447\]](#).

Does the exclusive use of public assets in a national park, including 17 state government owned properties, not count as a benefit in Dr Keto's eyes? Are \$1 rents not a benefit when the proceeds of those entities on such agreements flow to ARCS? It is this benefit that is mostly damaging to ARCS's competition. When other businesses are paying up to \$4,000 per month in rent to the state, how are they to compete with businesses with such miniscule overheads? The impact on the Springbrook economy is significant and has been seriously damaging.

I look forward to all of the secrets of the buy-up being finally uncovered and those injustices done to the people of Springbrook being undone. As I have said in this House before, I represent the silent majority on Springbrook Mountain, not the vocal minority of the 'gangrenes'.