



Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA

Record of Proceedings, 15 October 2015

MOTION: REVOCATION OF STATE AREAS

Revocation of State Areas

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (3.01 pm): I move—

REVOCATION OF STATE AREAS

- (1) That this House requests the Governor in Council to revoke by regulation under section 9 of the *Marine Parks Act 2004*, the declaration as Marine Park of the area as set out in the Proposal tabled by me in the House today, viz—

Description of areas to be revoked

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|-------------------------|--|
| Great Sandy Marine Park | Area described as Unallocated State Land adjacent to Lions Park (Lot 5 on CP880110) within the Burrum River at Burrum Heads and containing an area of 2.2 hectares of tidal lands and tidal waters as illustrated on the attached sketch |
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- (2) That Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef for submission to the Governor in Council.

Revocation of part of a marine park is a matter that I do not consider lightly; however, on this occasion I believe that the revocation of a small part of the Grand Sandy Marine Park to allow for construction of a new, safer public boat ramp facility at Burrum Heads, is justified. The local community has waited a long time for this. The new public boat ramp will allow more locals and tourists to enjoy and appreciate many of the values that make the Great Sandy Marine Park special.

Before proceeding with any revocation, substantial justification and a thorough assessment is needed. This includes a determination that there is no reasonable and practical alternative. Ensuring the revocation will not significantly impact on the integrity of the marine park is also a key consideration. Ninety-nine per cent of Queensland's east coast sits within a marine park. With this extensive coverage there is occasionally a need to revoke small areas from the marine park network to address location-specific management issues. This revocation will allow for the development of infrastructure that is incompatible with the marine park's management.

I propose that a 2.2-hectare area from the Great Sandy Marine Park at Burrum Heads be revoked. Burrum Heads is a coastal township located at the mouth of the Burrum River 30 kilometres north-west of Hervey Bay. Boating and fishing are important to Burrum Heads, both as recreational pursuits for many residents and as drawcards for visitors and holiday-makers to the region. While the town has two existing public boat ramps, they are both in exposed locations. This makes them difficult to use and unsafe in some weather conditions. They also have very limited car and trailer parking.

These issues make the existing boat ramps problematic for users, particularly during busy periods such as long weekends and holidays. For well over two decades the local community has lobbied for an improved public boat ramp facility. The key challenge has been to find a suitable location with an adequate area of land for the car and trailer park that is adjacent to a suitable part of the river for a new ramp. The Burrum River is within the conservation park zone of the Great Sandy Marine Park. Based on the reclamation requirements, approval cannot be granted for the construction of this new boat ramp facility within the Great Sandy Marine Mark. The marine park zoning has historically prevented the previously proposed ramp siting options to be progressed.

During the last two to three years the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Fraser Coast Regional Council have been seeking to finally resolve the boat ramp issues at Burrum Heads. This has included considering a range of options, impact and feasibility assessments and community consultation. These helped identify the most appropriate solution to the public boat ramp issue. The outcome of this work requires the revocation of a 2.2-hectare area from the marine park. This will allow for the development of a new two-lane boat ramp, a floating walkway, small rock groyne to protect the ramp from strong currents and waves and a 49-space car and trailer park.

The proposed 2.2-hectare revocation area is a very small portion of the 593,300-hectare Great Sandy Marine Park. It includes the area to be reclaimed and a buffer around the completed ramp. This is consistent with the 30 existing boat ramps that enter the Great Sandy Marine Park. Assessments have confirmed that the proposed revocation is unlikely to impact on habitat for threatened or migratory species. The Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Fraser Coast Regional Council have undertaken significant community consultation. This ensures that the proposed design and location of the boat ramp facility has strong public support.

I believe this proposed marine park revocation is justified and will provide a public benefit. The project will, however, result in the permanent loss of some marine habitat through filling to create the car and trailer parking area. Part of the Burrum declared fish habitat area will also be subject to revocation for this project. To compensate for these losses to the marine park and the declared fish habitat area, the Department of Transport and Main Roads will contribute approximately \$103,000. These compensation funds will be utilised for habitat enhancement projects and management initiatives within the marine park and declared fish habitat area.

In summary, this is an important and long-awaited project for the Burrum Heads community. I am satisfied that sufficient environmental assessment and investigation of options has been undertaken. There is significant justification to support the proposed marine park revocation. Madam Deputy Speaker, on this basis, I commend the motion to the House.