




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 2 November 2016

MOTION

Revocation of State Forest Areas

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (5.47 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the motion before the House. I fully support this proposal which will see the revocation of around 745 hectares of Beerwah State Forest and the dedication of that area into the Mooloolah River National Park. As members would be aware, the upgrade of the Bruce Highway between Caloundra Road and the Sunshine Motorway is adjacent to this area. The initial design of the upgrade would have impacted around 35 hectares of the Beerwah State Forest. In later plans, this was reduced to 24 hectares. I am pleased to advise the House that the current design requires only 12 hectares which may well come down to between six and eight hectares, and is minimising the impact of the Bruce Highway upgrade on the local environment.

We have been able to reduce that impact as a result of extensive consultation and by listening and working closely with a range of local stakeholders and community groups. In particular, I would like to thank the Sunshine Coast Environment Council and the Save Steve Irwin Way Forest Group for their ongoing advocacy and willingness to work with the Palaszczuk government to deliver a better result for all concerned. When government and community groups work together, great outcomes can be achieved and this is clearly one of them.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads has been able to minimise the impact of the upgrade on the forest by using groundbreaking new interchange design. This is the first time in Australia that a diverging diamond interchange will be used. It is this innovative planning that has delivered improved environmental, traffic and congestion outcomes as well as road safety outcomes. For those members who are not familiar with it, it looks more like some entwining ribbons than it does a big clover leaf. If you have not seen one, there are plenty on YouTube. There have been about 60 of them in the US over the last six years. They are a very interesting design—slightly counterintuitive but much more efficient with traffic outcomes and use a lot less land.

The Palaszczuk government was elected with a commitment to genuine consultation and community engagement. The improved interchange upgrade and the expansion of the Mooloolah River National Park is a clear example of the Palaszczuk government delivering on that commitment. I would like to sincerely thank my colleague Minister Miles, the Minister for Environment, his staff and his department for their excellent work in working with the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the community groups for this excellent outcome. The Palaszczuk government is absolutely committed to better outcomes on the Sunshine Coast and its hinterland. This is a clear example of us working closely with Sunshine Coast and hinterland residents and communities.