



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

Record of Proceedings, 2 November 2016

MOTION

Revocation of State Forest Areas

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (5.39 pm): I move—

1. That this House requests the Governor in Council to:
 - (a) revoke by regulation the dedication of parts of a State forest; and
 - (b) dedicate by regulation the revoked areas of the aforementioned State forest as a national park,under section 30 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 as set out in the proposals tabled by me in the House today viz—

Description of area to be revoked

Beerwah State Forest	An area of about 744.558 hectares, as illustrated on the attached “Beerwah State Forest revocation: sketch A”.
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Description of area to be dedicated

Mooloolah River National Park	An area of about 744.558 hectares, as illustrated on the attached “Mooloolah River National Park addition: sketch B”.
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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.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to a strong and expansive national park estate that represents and protects Queensland’s unique flora and fauna. We have worked with the community so that all current and future protected areas and state forests are afforded appropriate levels of protection and management. This proposal is for the revocation of approximately 745 hectares from Beerwah State Forest, which is located about 11 kilometres west of Caloundra, and subsequent dedication as part of Mooloolah River National Park. Under the 1998 South-East Queensland Forest Agreement, these parts of Beerwah State Forest were proposed to transition to protected area, subject to timber harvesting by 2024, if not sooner.

This motion will deliver a welcome upgrade in the protection of these lands that are of high conservation value. The proposed addition of about 745 hectares to Mooloolah River National Park will conserve floristically diverse old-growth forest and wetland regional ecosystems, two of which are endangered systems and four that are of concern. This proposal takes this level of protection further by dedicating a large section of the Mooloolah logging area of Beerwah State Forest as Mooloolah River National Park. I am pleased that this biologically diverse and environmentally significant area now has the protection it deserves.

I also acknowledge that Minister Donaldson, as the minister responsible for forestry, has supported this upgrade from state forest to national park. What was previously a very contentious proposal—

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Order! The member for Lockyer will remain silent.

Dr MILES: What was previously a very contentious proposal by the previous government to develop this high conservation area as a commercial dirt bike facility now has been afforded a high level of protection and significant environmental benefits for generations to come. I recommend that parliament support the revocation of the state forest areas and subsequent dedication of the areas as national park as specified in the proposals.