



Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**


**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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**MOTION**

**Revocation of Protected Areas**

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumba—ALP) (8.07 pm): I rise to stand in support of this revocation motion. Like many members who will speak tonight, I do know these areas—Palmview, Hays Inlet and Lamington National Park—where these small revocations are going to be. As we have heard, it is a case of correcting anomalies or taking small steps to facilitate better road infrastructure.

For Lamington National Park, it is clear that it is a case of correcting anomalies of where the road is and where the actual road reserve is. In one bend, the asphalt road pavement and the drains are constructed within the boundaries of the national park. It is not on the actual road reserve. So we revoke the national park and turn it into road reserve and we give the original road reserve back to the park. As we have heard the minister say, we end up with more park as a result. These are only small revocations but they are all very important steps. As we know, Lamington National Park is a wonderful playground for South-East Queensland, Queensland and internationally as well.

**Mr Rickuss:** It's a long way from the north side of Brisbane.

**Mr WHITING:** We move everywhere.

**Mr Rickuss** interjected.

**Mr WHITING:** I take the interjection.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Elmes): Order, member for Murrumba and member for Lockyer! Please direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr WHITING:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I have taken my family up there for a long weekend at O'Reilly's, and it was a wonderful experience for the kids as it was their first time rugging up. They absolutely loved it. It is where I took the children for their first bush walk.

**Dr Miles** interjected.

**Mr WHITING:** I did take caucus there and they loved it. It was my children's first experience with bush animals—quolls, sugar gliders and birds of prey. It was their first experience of bird feeding. These are all unique experiences. It is a wonderful park and it holds special memories for my family. It is a special environment. As the member for Beaudesert knows, it is 1,000 metres above sea level. It is five to eight degrees cooler there. Driving there is an experience in itself. It is not just driving through the forest and its views, but one can certainly appreciate the engineering that went into making this road.

I want to talk about the important parts of this revocation, and that is the value of national parks like Lamington which are the bedrock of our industry. It is very clear that this is one of the steps we need to take to protect those values. At the same time we need to keep improving the infrastructure into and out of our national parks—improving access for people who want to experience the wonders of Lamington and our other national parks so they can see the wonders for themselves. As we know,

Lamington will form a very important part of the experience of many of our Commonwealth Games visitors. It will host probably thousands of visitors during that time. They will not only experience Lamington but also tell many other international visitors about the beauty of our natural environment in Queensland and the Gold Coast. It will hopefully encourage them to experience nature in one of the world's safest countries.

Before they can do that, we do have to get the roads right. The national park is over 100 years old. It started about the same time that the O'Reilly family started to move into that area and they developed that park into a tourism industry. There have been a range of acquisitions over the years to expand and improve the park. We have inherited a range of infrastructure over the time that was developed by a number of private citizens, and one of those is roads. As I have said, the roads up there are notoriously difficult and we can really appreciate the people who first engineered those roads. They may not have got it right first up, but today we can fix that problem, improve the experience and improve the infrastructure to this park.

Members of the Sunshine Coast who will be talking to this motion tonight, or anyone who has travelled up and down the Bruce Highway to the Sunshine Coast, will know the intersection at Palmview that we are talking about and the need for improved roadworks there. We all know the area next to Aussie World. When my family goes up to the Sunshine Coast on holidays, we stop there for supplies and pies—maybe not in the near future. In recent times access northwards onto the highway has had to be improved. The merge was horrendous in years past. That has been improved and is now a safer merge. For those travelling from that area southwards, you have to go onto the highway and turn right, and that certainly needs some work. For those people who know the area, there are a lot of commuters who park there to catch buses up and down the highway. It is often be a crowded shoulder. Adding to that is a new residential development on the western side of the highway which uses that exit to go southwards. There is a good reason for adjusting the road in this area, getting the national park adjusted and doing those roadworks to make it a safer area.

I have digressed. What I really want to talk about tonight is the revocation in my area in Hays Inlet which will formalise construction of part of the Redcliffe Peninsula rail line. It is a sensitive area. It is very low. Those who have driven past there will know that. It forms part of Hays Inlet, which is a very sensitive area. This part of the road is surrounded by mangroves and is tidal. It is not very far above high tide. The construction that we have heard the minister talk about today is part of the road that has been newly constructed and leads into Rothwell station. This road continues past the station, connects into Anzac Avenue and is called Stubbins Street. It has been recently opened and gives Redcliffe residents access to Rothwell station. It has a really good bike path and shared pathway. This is part of the works that we have done for the Moreton Bay Rail Link.

I want to take this opportunity to talk about the overall construction of the Moreton Bay Rail Link. This has really transformed the economic and social life of our communities in this area. I want to talk about some of the key features. There is the 12.6-kilometre dual track passenger rail between Petrie and Kippa-Ring; six new rail stations; 2,850 car-parking stations; a three-metre wide shared path—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Elmes): Order! Member for Murrumba, can you try to stay on the revocation motion?

**Mr WHITING:** Yes, Mr Deputy Speaker. I was going to say that it is one feature which is delivering a reliable, economical and faster alternative to driving to the Brisbane CBD. Every new full train on this line takes 600 cars off the road.

**Mr King:** What a great line it is!

**Mr WHITING:** It is an absolutely fabulous line. It is attracting investment to the area and acting as a catalyst for growth along this alignment. This revocation forms part of the wonderful new infrastructure we have in this area. These are only small revocations but they form a very important part of constructing the infrastructure we need in our area.