



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

Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2017

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) (11.56 am): I move—

- (1) That this House requests the Governor in Council, in accordance with section 26 of the Forestry Act 1959, revoke by regulation the setting apart and declaration as State forest the area as set out in the Proposal tabled by me in the House today, viz—

Description of the area to be revoked

Beerwah State Forest	An area of 7.358 hectares described as lot 100 on SP235756 as illustrated on the attached "Beerwah State Forest revocation: sketch A".
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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.

Queensland has around three million hectares of state forest and timber reserves, and the Palaszczuk government strongly supports initiatives to deliver a viable, profitable and sustainable Queensland timber and forest industry. This government continues to work with the community so that state forests are afforded appropriate levels of protection and management. With such a large and dispersed forest estate there is the occasional need to revoke the declaration of small forestry areas for purposes including conversion from one tenure to another; to rectify errors in how land has been described, gazetted or used; to allow for the upgrade or expansion of public infrastructure such as roads and railways; and for commercial or private purposes.

The revocation of land from the forest estate will only be supported where it can be clearly demonstrated that the proposed use is in the broader public interest and there is no reasonable practical alternative. Careful consideration has been given to the proposal, with consultation occurring with affected stakeholders and state and local government agencies. Native title matters have also been considered in relation to the proposal and it has been determined that the action may proceed.

I will now outline the background for the proposal and compensation arrangement that has been agreed to for the loss of the state's asset. This proposal is for the revocation of the setting apart and declaration of 7.358 hectares from Beerwah State Forest, which is located about 13 kilometres west of Caloundra. This proposal is of significant community benefit, revoking part of Beerwah State Forest, thereby guaranteeing tenure for the Sunshine Coast Regional Council works depot and the co-locating of the Beerwah & District Rural Fire Brigade. Financial compensation has been provided for the loss or reduction of the inherent natural, environmental, social or cultural values associated with the area being revoked as well as the loss of an asset to the state and commercial attributes of the area.

This revocation demonstrates the Palaszczuk government's commitment to a balanced approach to forestry management and community benefit. I commend the motion to the House.