




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

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MOTION

Revocation of Protected Areas

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (8.56 pm), in reply: I thank all members for their thoughtful and passionate contributions to the debate tonight. I thank the staff in the environment department, the national parks department and the transport department for their work on these important boundary adjustments. Although we never take a decision to revoke our protected area estate lightly, sometimes there are some very important reasons for doing so.

I thank the Attorney-General for pointing out what a positive change the Redcliffe peninsula line has been in connecting the Redcliffe community to Brisbane city. Thanks to state and federal Labor governments, this transport infrastructure is allowing for easier, faster and cheaper access to the city centre. She rightly pointed out that this is the kind of infrastructure that attracts investment and provides better opportunities for businesses in her region. It has also reduced congestion on our road network including the Bruce Highway.

That brings me to the Palmview revocation to assist with the Bruce Highway upgrade. The revocation of a small part of Palmview Conservation Park will allow for the upgrade of Pignata Road, which is part of the Bruce Highway upgrades. The member for Murrumba well pointed out that Aussie World is a big attraction and has a big impact on traffic. The Pignata Road works will help by improving the access to and exit from Aussie World. A new residential development on the western side of the highway that uses this southbound exit to go to Brisbane and Caloundra will also benefit from the upgrades.

Finally, I thank the member for Murrumba for pointing out that our national parks are the bedrock of our tourism industry and that, although we must protect them, we must also provide the infrastructure for people to visit and experience our protected areas firsthand. I agree with him that Lamington National Park will undoubtedly form a part of the experience of the Commonwealth Games for the thousands of visitors who attend. We want them to recommend it and encourage their family and friends to visit, too. It is for all these reasons that these small revocations will make a big difference to these important projects that improve our transport infrastructure. I commend the motion to the House.