




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

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2017

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) (8.39 pm), in reply: In summing up the debate, I thank all members for their contribution. It is wonderful to see so much interest in how we manage our national parks and the land that we put into and occasionally take out of our protected area estate. Given the tenure resolution component of these revocations, many members have spoken about the importance of land within the culture of our traditional owners. Even though we have a rich Aboriginal heritage, we do not celebrate it nearly enough.

I do not feel qualified to say what the return of these lands will mean to those traditional owners, but I hope it is the start of a fruitful journey. I hope the government's commitment to joint management of some of our most pristine areas is on display tonight. As the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships said, these revocations for consideration tonight are part of the steps we are taking to uphold a long-held pledge to return land to its traditional custodians. Approving this revocation motion will allow us to return over 40,400 hectares of land back into the hands of traditional owners. I commend this motion to the House.