



Speech By  
**Brent Mickelberg**


**MEMBER FOR BUDERIM**

---

Record of Proceedings, 20 September 2018

**MOTION**

**Revocation of Protected Areas**

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (4.18 pm): I rise to briefly speak to the revocation motion moved by the Minister for Environment contained the tabled proposals under sections 32 and 70E of the Nature Conservation Act 1992. I note that the proposal details six separate revocations located in the Tully, Tewantin, Atherton and Bamaga areas. Given that the areas that we are talking about are of conservation value, it is right and proper that the people of Queensland should have confidence that these types of decisions are made with the requisite level of community consultation, particularly with those individuals who live in the immediate proximity of the affected areas. Given that the majority of these revocations occur in Far North Queensland, I seek the minister's assurance that community consultation has been undertaken with communities on the Atherton Tablelands, at Mission Beach and, importantly, in the northern cape.

I would like to take a moment to focus on the Heathlands Resources Reserve. I understand that a quarry, as the shadow minister for environment mentioned, is included within the proposed revocation. As anyone who has spent time in the north knows, the availability of material for the construction and maintenance of roads is essential. Earlier in the year the parliament heard testimony from Cape York Aboriginal elder Gerhardt Pearson in Cairns where he told the Palaszczuk Labor government that its legislative agenda would 'snuff out' economic opportunities for traditional owners across the Far North, and he used the vegetation management legislation as an example.

The LNP has a proud record of providing greater economic opportunity for regional development and economic prosperity for Aboriginal freehold land. After all, it was the LNP that drove the most significant review of Queensland's state land in more than a century. It is imperative that future economic development opportunities are provided to local communities and not just residents of the south-east.

I would also like clarification from the minister as to the need for any revocations to facilitate development of the Wangetti Trail between Cairns and Port Douglas. We have previously heard in this House how this important ecotourism project will contribute to the Far North Queensland economy. Earlier in the year I was privileged to see how ecotourism ventures like mountain biking and the Three Capes Track in Tasmania have completely redefined the local economies of previously struggling regional towns.

I, like all members on this side of the House, am keen to see such economic development opportunities proceed in a timely fashion. I call on the government to get on with the job of building the Wangetti Trail. All Queenslanders want to know that ecologically significant areas are conserved and they also want to see economic development opportunities proceed wherever possible. Ecotourism provides an additional bow to economies that have historically struggled or been reliant on a single industry. Surely both sides of politics can agree on that.