



Speech By  
**Cynthia Lui**


**MEMBER FOR COOK**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 September 2018

## MOTION

### Revocation of Protected Areas

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (4.21 pm): I rise to speak in support of the revocation motion. The Palaszczuk government is committed to returning lands to Aboriginal traditional owners and creating opportunities for economic development. We have an impressive record of achieving this on Cape York Peninsula, with over 3.7 million hectares of land returned to date.

These revocations form part of a broader proposal for the Apudthama, previously known as Thayanaku, land dealing located on the north-east coast of Cape York Peninsula in accordance with the Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Program. The Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Program is working with traditional owners and other departments, including Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, to reach agreement on tenure outcomes for the Apudthama land tenure dealing area, which will include a benefits package to kickstart tourism enterprise development as well as employment opportunities for traditional owners associated with jointly managed national parks.

These revocations will enable the subsequent transfer of Aboriginal freehold land under the Aboriginal Land Act 1992 and the creation of national park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal land) under the Nature Conservation Act 1992. The grant of Aboriginal freehold land to the traditional owners of this land will enable them to maintain cultural ties to the land and pursue economic opportunities in the Captain Billy Landing and Cockatoo Creek areas. This proposal will also correct the erroneous dedication of parts of the Southern Bypass Road as part of the resources reserve.

Consultation has occurred with the traditional owners of the lands concerned and with other relevant Aboriginal people, the Cape York Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, the Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation and other relevant stakeholders and government agencies, with all parties supporting these revocations.

The revocations from Heathlands Resources Reserve are further evidence that this government is upholding a long-term undertaking by successive Labor governments to return land to its traditional custodians. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Deputy Premier for her passion and dedication towards ensuring that our first nations people are able to gain economic opportunity, maintain cultural practices and reconnect to country that has been cared for by traditional owners for thousands of generations.

I would also like to thank Minister Enoch for facilitating this important piece of Apudthama land dealing. I am extremely proud of the achievements of this government in returning large areas of land to the traditional custodians on Cape York Peninsula, but I am also proud of the achievements of the Aboriginal landholding entities that are now working hard to establish businesses, including tourism and cattle grazing ventures, which are generating much needed income and jobs to support families and their communities. I commend the motion to the House.