




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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MOTION

Revocation of Protected Areas

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (4.09 pm): From the outset, I would like to say that the opposition will certainly be supporting the matter brought forward by the minister today. I thank the minister for her contribution today. She is clearly not well so to be in here is an excellent effort. I thank her for the briefing on this matter provided to me and my staff by her staff and the department.

I would like to go through the items for revocation and make a brief contribution on each. The first is an area of around five hectares of Family Islands National Park. This makes a lot of sense. The council has come forward with what it sees as a way it can provide all that we are getting at the moment without the department having to continue to keep its status as a national park. The minister quite rightly said that it is not connected to the current national park. Therefore, I think the case has been put that it is a recreational area for all intents and purposes.

With regard to the next revocation involving Tewantin National Park, I note the member for Noosa is in the chamber and will speak on this. I will allow her to make a more detailed contribution on this one. However, I will say that it appears from our analysis to be a matter of road alignments.

In terms of the 11 hectares at Heathlands Resources Reserve, I would like to make a point about the smallest bit of this revocation—that is, the gravel pit. It is an excellent economic opportunity for the community to have the current working quarry included. I would stress that it is absolutely vital that those facilities remain open and remain accessible. Without quarries in that part of the world our ability to undertake efficient and cost-effective road upgrades goes out the window. That is a very important part of it. When it comes to Indigenous communities, I have always been of the view that the two greatest things a government can give are employment and ownership. This has the potential for both. I sincerely hope that the community and council take that land and make every opportunity with it.

The next revocation is an area of about 43½ hectares of forest reserve about 26 kilometre east of Atherton. Again, this is for road realignment and maintenance.

The next revocation is for 16.7 hectares of the Gillies Highway Forest Reserve east of Atherton. This is obviously for road purposes. I would urge those working in this area to use the minimum amount possible for both access as well as the road. It is an important project that the opposition will support. The final revocation is 28.5 hectares of the Little Mulgrave Forest Reserve for road realignment.

The minister began her contribution by listing off some of the priorities when these matters are being decided. One of them was clear benefits and net conservation benefit. While we are talking about national parks, I would like to make a brief contribution about what I think governments must do when they are looking at our national parks, declaring our national parks and caring for and maintaining our national parks.

It is one thing to have areas set aside as national parks, but if we are not maintaining them then they are of questionable environmental benefit. Governments must ensure that feral weeds and animals are dealt with, otherwise friction is created with those whose properties border national parks. So many times I have seen landholders at their wit's end because they are prepared to put their shoulder to the wheel, spend thousands and thousands of dollars eradicating weeds and pests and then on the other side of the fence, heaven forbid, is the national park which is in fact in far worse condition than their freehold land.

Are national parks vital? You bet they are. The greatest gift a government can give is well-resourced national parks. Governments need a clear focus on removing feral pests and weeds and the funding to do so. To just declare something and put a ribbon around it is not enough. They also need to do the right thing and continue to maintain them.

I will conclude by going back to where I started. I thank the minister for the briefing provided. The opposition will be supporting these revocations.