




Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Enoch**

**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

Record of Proceedings, 20 September 2018

**MOTION**

**Revocation of Protected Areas**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (4.01 pm). I move—

- (1) That this House requests the Governor in Council to revoke by regulation under sections 32 and 70E of the Nature Conservation Act 1992, the dedication of national park, resource reserve and forest reserves as set out in the Proposal tabled by me in the House today, viz

**Description of the areas to be revoked**

Family Islands National Park	An area of about 5.26 hectares described as lot 9 on CWL3549, as illustrated on the attached "Family Islands National Park sketch A".
Tewantin National Park	An area of: a. 1.9184 hectares described as lots 100 to 103 on SP172000, as illustrated on the attached "Tewantin National Park sketch B"; and b. 5.3858 hectares described as lots 10 to 12 on SP230058, as illustrated on the attached "Tewantin National Park sketch C".
Heathlands Resources Reserve	An area of about 11.5606 hectares described as lot 1 on SP288875, lot 2 on SP288876, lot 3 on SP296927 and lots 35 to 37 on SP296936, as illustrated on the attached "Heathlands Resources Reserve sketch D".
Gadgarra Forest Reserve	An area of about 43.6837 hectares described as lots 10 to 15 and 19 to 24 on SP224679, as illustrated on the attached "Gadgarra Forest Reserve sketch E".
Gillies Highway Forest Reserve	An area of 16.717 hectares described as lots 16 to 18 on SP224683, as illustrated on the attached "Gillies Highway Forest Reserve sketch F".
Little Mulgrave Forest Reserve	An area of about 28.5683 hectares described as lots 1 to 9 on SP224678, as illustrated on the attached "Little Mulgrave Forest Reserve sketch G".

- (2) That Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts for submission to the Governor in Council.

The Palaszczuk government will only support the revocation of land from the protected area and forest reserve estates where it can be clearly demonstrated that it is in the interests of the specific tenure, it provides for greater protected area management effectiveness, there is a net conservation benefit as a result, it is in the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the public, and there is no reasonable practical alternative. Since coming to government in 2015, the Palaszczuk government has increased the size of Queensland's protected area estate from 7.56 per cent to 8.2 per

cent. That means that in less than four years an extra 1.1 million hectares of Queensland is now protected. That is on top of the ecological values and essential habitat that have been saved by the Queensland government's new vegetation management laws.

With such a large and dispersed protected area and forest reserve estate, there is the occasional need to revoke the dedication of areas for greater public benefit. The decision to revoke those parts of the estate are not made lightly, but in those cases clear benefits to the community, road safety and to first nations people have been demonstrated. Careful consideration has been given to this proposal and in each instance consultation has occurred with state and local agencies, landholders and interested groups and, of course, first nations peoples. The proposal will not extinguish or affect native title or native title rights and interests in relation to the land.

I turn to the areas affected by the motion, starting with the Family Islands National Park. An area of 5.26 hectares, part of the Family Islands National Park about 24 kilometres east of Tully, is proposed to be revoked for a Land Act 1994 community purpose or recreation reserve, with the Cassowary Coast Regional Council to be appointed as trustees. The area known as the Dunk Island Spit is subject to a 30-year term lease with the Cassowary Coast Regional Council and contains Dunk Island resort and council infrastructure. That lease expires on 12 November 2019.

The proposed revocation is of significant strategic and management advantage to the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, because the area to be revoked will remain available for community purposes; has no inherent natural, environmental, social or cultural values due to the level of manmade and natural disturbance; is not connected with the remainder of the national park; and has longstanding and existing values and uses more appropriately managed as a community-purpose or recreation reserve.

There are two elements to the proposal for the revocation of parts of the Tewantin National Park, about four kilometres west of Tewantin. The first is to revoke parts of the national park containing an area of 1.9 hectares to ratify the alignment of the McKinnon Drive road reserve with the actual constructed road. McKinnon Drive has been on its current alignment since before 1964 and the Department of Transport and Main Roads requires the road reserve alignment to be ratified to enable it to undertake road safety improvements, rehabilitation works and ongoing maintenance.

The final part of the proposal is to revoke parts of the national park, an area of 5.3 hectares, to fulfil the Department of Transport and Main Roads and Noosa Shire Council's Integrated Regional Transport Plan *Demaining Agreement 2000* to establish the Tewantin Bypass, connecting the Cooroy Noosa Road to the Eumundi Noosa Road via Beckmans Road. The Noosa Shire Council will provide land for inclusion into the national park as compensation for the loss of the inherent natural, environmental, social and cultural values associated with the areas being revoked from the national park.

I turn now to Heathlands Resources Reserve. To facilitate the return of land to Aboriginal ownership, it is proposed that parts of Heathlands Resources Reserve, about 66 kilometres south of Bamaga, be revoked for road and Aboriginal freehold land purposes. This proposal is aligned with a package of revocations that were supported in the House last year on 14 June 2017 and will enable traditional owners to pursue economic opportunities and re-establish cultural ties to the land. Firstly, to rectify the erroneous dedication of a section of road reserve as part of the resources reserve, an area of about 6.55 hectares is to be revoked to correct administrative errors where a closed road was mistakenly dedicated as resources reserve. This land was also intended to be transferred as Aboriginal freehold.

Another part of the proposal is to exclude a gravel pit from the resources reserve in the Captain Billy Landing area, an area of about 0.2834 hectares. That is an area that is already disturbed, but suitably located to enable the traditional owners to pursue income-generating opportunities, particularly in the area of tourism. The final part of this proposal is to revoke two small parcels of resources reserve lying between the Captain Billy Landing access track and a proposed lookout on Aboriginal freehold containing an area of 2.5472 hectares. This area is also disturbed and will also provide consistency of tenure to enable the traditional owners to pursue further economic opportunities in the Captain Billy Landing area.

I turn to the Gillies Range Road safety improvements. To allow for the realignment of the Gillies Range Road, it is proposed that parts of Gadgarra Forest Reserve, parts of Little Mulgrave Forest Reserve and the Gillies Highway Forest Reserve containing an area of 16.7 hectares, about 26 kilometres east of Atherton, are also included in the proposal. That is essential to enable road safety improvements, rehabilitation works, ongoing maintenance and drainage upgrades to the Gillies Range Road.

I take this opportunity to announce that, following a signed agreement between the government and landowners, a 34,217 hectare parcel of land adjoining Rungulla National Park has become Queensland's newest nature refuge. Located 130 kilometres south of Forsyth, with a landscape of rugged hills and plateaus that supports a range of eucalypt woodlands, the Gilberton Nature Refuge will protect and conserve an amazing diversity of animals, plants and ecosystems. I take this opportunity to thank the Gilberton landholders, the French family, for their commitment to protecting and conserving our unique environment. The beautiful property is home to the Gilbert River, which winds between the hills for 20 kilometres. It is home to a mosaic of vegetation types, supports koalas and has Aboriginal, European and Chinese cultural heritage sites.

I am very proud of the fact that the Queensland government has signed 14 nature refuge agreements this year alone, creating just over 35,000 hectares of nature refuge space in Queensland.

As I have stated, decisions to revoke parts of the protected area are not made lightly. However, given the clear benefits to the community, road safety and the traditional owners of the north-east coast of the cape, I urge all members to support the motion before the House.