




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

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MOTION

Revocation of Protected Area

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (4.00 pm): As the member for Broadwater alluded to, the LNP and I support this revocation and I am pleased to be able to speak to it. I have been another socially and environmentally responsible participant at the Woodford Folk Festival on a number of occasions. I am a regular attendee at the festival. I loved attending what was the former Bunya Dreaming festival and I have spent a bit of time at the Planting festivals as well. Some of those trees and vegetation that both the minister and the member for South Brisbane referred to were planted by yours truly. It is great to see the transformation of this former dairy farm into the wonderful cultural site and venue that it is now. I have also had the opportunity to speak at the Woodford Folk Festival in one memorable contribution at the GREENhouse when I was the environment minister. Whilst Bill Hauritz, the coordinator, would love to have me back, I am not sure too many others there would. But that is okay. I am happy to go along and enjoy the music, the food and everything else that the Woodford Folk Festival has to offer.

As others have mentioned, I was very privileged to attend the native title declaration that was held on site for the traditional owners, the Jinibara people. That is the only one that I have had the privilege to attend in my electorate, and it is likely to be the only one that I am likely to attend in my electorate. I have been fortunate to attend similar declarations on the cape and elsewhere around the state, but to be there with the traditional owners of the land on which a lot of the electorate of Glass House is based was particularly special and I continue that relationship with the Jinibara elders to this day.

As others have alluded to, there is enormous economic and cultural benefit from what is held on the Woodfordia site. That is recognised by all tiers of government and by all political parties regardless of their political persuasion. The Moreton Bay Regional Council has gone to great lengths to ensure the financial viability of the Woodford Folk Festival. It purchased the land on which it is held to underwrite and keep safe that site. In so doing it freed up some capital that could be reinvested into other opportunities, including more toilet blocks—the festival became so popular that it needed more toilet blocks—a sewage treatment facility, more theatres and amphitheatres. That has been great to see. The festival has received state contributions on an annual basis through tourism funds from both the ALP and the LNP governments. There has been infrastructure investment from state governments and federal governments, again of each political persuasion. I think everyone would agree that the economic and cultural benefit of this internationally renowned festival is well worth the investment.

This morning I talked to Bill Hauritz and informed him that this revocation was coming up for debate. Of course, Bill never missed an opportunity to again make sure that I got out there to Woodford to see his latest addition to the site. He again extended an invitation to the Leader of the Opposition, who has been there on a couple of occasions. Bill pointed out that this revocation is necessary. Otherwise, the amphitheatre, which will be hosting Kate Miller-Heidke this year, would technically still be in a national park. In that regard, this revocation is a sensible outcome.

Ms Trad: They've got Kasey Chambers this year.

Mr POWELL: He mentioned Kate Miller-Heidke, too, I think, so they are both there. This revocation demonstrates the benefit of some of the ranges of protected area estate tenure that perhaps are not fully understood by the broader public and perhaps are not utilised by governments as much as they should. We all get the term 'national park'. We all think that is the pinnacle in protecting our natural wonders but, by declaring the area a conservation park, as the minister herself said, there is no less protection over the environmental values of the site but it also allows cultural and commercial benefit to continue to operate side by side with that protection and preservation of the environmental values of that property.

I think that is something that we need to bear in mind. Revocations are not made lightly, but perhaps declaring an area a national park in the first place is possibly not the best outcome for that area of protected estate. I think governments from both sides of politics would be well considered in taking a closer look at the level of protected estate tenure they apply to certain areas. The declaration of areas as conservation parks certainly produce better outcomes in the sense that the environmental protection can be balanced with other opportunities—in this case cultural and commercial opportunities—to still get a fantastic outcome.

With those few words I, too, commend this revocation to the House. I again commend the work of Bill Hauritz and Amanda Jackes and their team in putting together the Woodford Folk Festival. If members have not bought their tickets for this year, I ask them to please get on and do so. It will be another cracking year. I wish the Woodford Folk Festival all the best well into the future.