




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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MOTION

Revocation of State Forest Areas and Dedication of Protected Area

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (2.57 pm): In following on from the minister I agree with her final point. This does deserve support from both sides of the House. The opposition will be supporting her revocation. We will also be supporting the establishment of the national park.

I too wish to commend the partnership that has been formed and the good work of the Noosa Shire Council and Noosa Parks Association. I also wish to acknowledge HQPlantations. There is a touch of irony in what we are discussing. It is those opposite who sold the state's forest plantations. It is those opposite who benefited to the tune of about \$613 million when those forest plantations were sold. Today we are discussing \$3.5 million that will be used to retire a state forest to the very worthy cause of national park. Would it not be wonderful if we still controlled those assets? Would it not be wonderful if we had done something a little better with those proceeds than what those opposite did?

Mr Minnikin: Who sold assets?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth. Every day we come in here there is a finger-pointing exercise about the sale of assets. History will show clearly that only one side of politics sold assets. Only one side of politics kept its word. The HQPlantations proceeds would have been put to great use. This is very relevant to the debate.

I will follow the minister's contribution about how important this is for the protection of koalas by saying that it is indeed a worthy parcel of land for that. I use this opportunity today to again call on the government to fast-track a koala conservation strategy across this state. There has been too much talk and not enough action when it comes to koala protection. The northern part of the Gold Coast is ground zero at the moment for koala populations. We need action there before it is too late.

I also wish to highlight the importance of having a protected area strategy and protecting valuable parcels of land. The Queensland Audit Office in November last year delivered what was a scathing report about the record of this government. It said that the department 'lacks cross-program coordination and is unlikely to effectively conserve and recover many threatened species'. The government is yet to release a finalised Queensland protected area strategy after almost three years.

The minister spoke about the proportion of public land in this state. The minister highlighted that we are now at about 8.5 per cent. That is half of what we have signed on to deliver by 2020 under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity—half. That deadline is breathing down our neck, yet we are still not at 10 per cent. So much more needs to be done and it needs to be done in a coordinated way. Hence the reason why a protected area strategy that has been mulled over and has gone around and around in circles for too long needs to be delivered. That is why the tough decisions on striking a balance between protecting the right of somebody to use their land and protecting a special species need to be taken, but it takes political courage to do that. That cannot come soon enough.

I will make a contribution now about the management of this land. It is great to have members in this House who have considerable state forests and, indeed, national parks in the areas they represent—such as the member for Callide and the member for Southern Downs. Time and time again we hear from those in the community, those passionate about the environment, those passionate about the management of feral weeds and pests, that often the worst neighbour you can have is the state government. It is one thing to lock an area up—and that is often for a noble cause and for a worthwhile cause—but it is another to manage it to get the best environmental outcome. No-one wins when an area is put under lock and key and the only people who can enjoy it are the feral animals. No-one wins when an area is locked up and important species of plants get overrun by noxious weeds. No-one wins in that scenario.

So it is that the opposition wholeheartedly supports this motion. We call on the government to manage these areas well. We call on the government to look for these opportunities in the future. We highlight the partnership that exists between different levels of government and, indeed, a body who would never have had control had the asset not been sold in the first place.