




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 19 September 2019

MOTION

Revocation of State Forest Area

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (5.50 pm): In the interests of time and the need to pass this motion today, I will make my contribution brief. I am not able to do it as quickly as the minister; I commend her on that. The opposition will support the revocation wholeheartedly. In her speech the minister quite rightly touched on the fact that decisions to revoke state forests are not made lightly—nor should they be—but when the cause is great like this for such a small portion of land, only 6½ hectares, it is something that we should embrace. I have spoken with people in the local area including the mayor of the Cassowary Coast shire, the local member of parliament—and I thank him for his time—as well as councillors in the area whom I respect very much. The overwhelming support is for the need to back this. I thank the minister for her sincerity in doing so.

It is only through providing economic opportunities that we will assist our First Nations people to reach their full potential and be able to have thriving lives and communities. The failure of what government has done for Indigenous communities has not been through lack of finances or compassion over the years but has been misguided. It has been misguided because the opportunity for First Nations people to have a thriving economy was not afforded in the way it should have been. The opportunity for people to own their own home, to have aspirational societies, in a way that we take for granted is a flaw in our system. When an opportunity arises for a small parcel of land like this to be given to traditional owners to advance an economic cause, that is something that both sides of politics should embrace. For that reason, the opposition supports the revocation.