



Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 May 2019

**MOTION**

**Revocation of State Forest Areas and Dedication of Protected Area**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (3.10 pm), in reply: I thank all of those who contributed to this motion and the support they have provided to ensure we can expand our protected area estate and provide that vital corridor and habitat for species like the iconic koala. I think it is appropriate that I address some of the issues that were raised by the opposition spokesperson for the environment, the member for Broadwater. He mentioned his concerns about threatened species in particular. I just want to put on the record that the former Labor government put in place a threatened species strategy but, unfortunately, the former LNP government did not implement that. This left us in a situation where the Queensland Audit Office, rightly so, had concerns about how we protect our threatened species. The Palaszczuk government is moving to ensure that we do have a threatened species strategy once again in this state, along with our commitment to ensuring that biodiversity is upheld in Queensland.

I also point out that, in the questioning about biodiversity and in the support of protecting vital habitat, we did see from the LNP an absolute all-out disagreement and a backing away from any protection of lands when they fought against the vegetation management laws in this state. When we consider the kind of broadscale tree clearing we were seeing in Queensland as a result of the former Newman government, our sensible vegetation management laws ensure that we will see the ending of broadscale tree clearing and the protection of vital habitat for species in this state.

All that aside, I do acknowledge the comments made by members that they are supporting this motion. Once again, I want to acknowledge and congratulate all the work of Noosa Parks Association, Noosa council, HQPlantations, the Department of Environment and Science, the member for Noosa and all those individuals who made a commitment over many years and who have been advocates for this partnership to ensure that we see this large tract of land become part of our protected area estate as a national park. With that small contribution, I commend the motion to the House.