




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 19 May 2020

MOTION

Revocation and Dedication of Forest and Protected Areas

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.00 pm): I, too, rise to address the revocation of a number of national parks around the state but I will particularly focus my comments on the Kondalilla National Park. I pick up and thank the member for Broadwater for his comments. National park protected areas and state expansion under the former LNP government are something of which I am extremely proud as the former environment minister. Indeed, what we have seen since the additions to the protected areas of state are likely only the actual formation of national parks that were purchased by the LNP during our time in government. We see very little effort by this current government to continue to expand our protected areas of state. As the member for Broadwater also highlighted, they have done zero in terms of ensuring that our national parks are good neighbours for our farmers and landholders around the state.

The revocation in the Kondalilla National Park is occurring around the area of Flaxton in the north of the electorate of Glass House. It comes as a result of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council looking to improve Flaxton Mill Road. I know all of the residents in that part of the world would certainly welcome that, and therefore there is no opposition from me or anyone in the electorate of Glass House to this proposed revocation. It is also important to point out that, since Kondalilla National Park reopened under relaxation of the COVID restrictions, it has been incredibly popular. It is one of the real tourism highlights of the Sunshine Coast and indeed the Sunshine Coast hinterland. In fact, in using some of the extra time that I have with them, my family and I have been spending a fair bit of time over the last couple of weekends in Kondalilla National Park.

The access road, Flaxton Mill Road, through to Flaxton Walkers Camp has been well traversed, as has the northern route to Baxter Falls. I am ashamed to admit that I have been in the area for 17 years and that is one site I had not previously visited, but since being there the wife, children and I have been back twice already and intend to be back a lot more. It is a little-known gem within the great walk in the Kondalilla National Park. Everyone walks to Kondalilla Falls and down to Baroon Pocket Dam. They do not know about Baxter Falls—and I probably should not have mentioned it in the chamber because we will see people there—as it is a fantastic little trip. I certainly encourage everyone in the House to take in all parts of the great walk through the Blackall Range, not just those well traversed.

With those short comments, I again add my support to this revocation. Revocations are not taken easily. The hard work that is taken to add protected areas of state within Queensland is not something undone easily, but in this case it is a sensible suggestion and it has my support.