



Speech By  
**David Crisafulli**


**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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Record of Proceedings, 19 May 2020

**MOTION**

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

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (11.53 am): The opposition will be supporting the revocation motion moved by the minister. We do so both for the realignment and widening purposes in the areas of Maleny and Hervey Bay respectively as we do for the revocation of the Monkhouse Timber Reserve, approximately 9.9 hectares, from timber reserve to national park. I thank the minister for the opportunity for the briefing prior to the legislation coming before the House. I thank her also for outlining the principles by which she guides her assessment of revocations.

I take this opportunity to highlight what I see is a clear deficiency in this state at the moment, and that is our vision for growing our protected areas. I will say that the opposition supports the revocation of the timber reserve into the national park; that is fair and reasonable and the right thing to do. However, we need more than just a strategy where we accept things when they come forward based on ILUAs and the like. We need a clear strategy to increase protected areas in this state.

I highlight to the House the diabolical fall in funding for the acquisition of new parks in this state. The member for Glass House is in the chamber—and I do sincerely hope he gets an opportunity to contribute today. If we look at the funding set aside for the acquisition of national parks in this state, it has fallen by about two-thirds on average when comparing what he delivered as environment minister to what has been delivered in the past half a decade. We must get serious about this.

It was only a handful of years ago that the then environment minister, now Deputy Premier, stood up and signed on to a procedure that would bind us to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and said that we would reach 17 per cent of protected areas in this state. We are currently at 8.2 per cent, not 17 per cent and we did not start from scratch; we started at 7½ per cent. On that trajectory we are looking at half a century before we get close to what we said we would have delivered by now. We need action.

A Queensland Audit Office report titled *Conserving threatened species* showed how diabolical this situation is if we do not kickstart a serious acquisition of protected areas in this state. The minister mentioned the need for maintenance. Yes, he is spot-on, but it is not happening the way it should be at the moment. Landholders will tell him that many times the worst neighbour they have is the state government, which does not embark on sufficient maintenance of its assets. The time starts now.

Finally, before I conclude my contribution, I ask the government to come forward as part of what we are experiencing now to develop a vision for an environmentally led recovery. It should look seriously at acquiring areas, improving the ones we have and looking for economic opportunities that come with allowing people to enjoy our national parks and allow the maintenance to occur. That will deliver benefits for us now and into the future. We support the revocation.