




Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Enoch**

**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

Record of Proceedings, 19 May 2020

**MOTION**

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

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (11.44 am): I move—

1. That this House requests the Governor in Council to:
  - (a) revoke by regulation under section 30 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the setting apart and declaration of part of a timber reserve;
  - (b) dedicate by regulation under section 29 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the revoked area of the aforementioned timber reserve as part of an existing national park;
  - (c) revoke by regulation under section 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the dedication of part of one national park and part of one conservation park,

as set out in the Proposal tabled by me in the House today, viz

**Description of areas to be revoked**

Monkhouse Timber Reserve	An area of about 9.9 hectares described as part of lot 165 on plan FTY1722 (to be described as lot 1 on AP23568 and dedicated as part of Ngalba Bulal National Park), as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Kondalilla National Park	An area of 0.1529 hectares described as part of lot 783 on plan NPW788 (to be described as lots 1 to 5 on SP305105), as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Duggan Conservation Park	An area of 0.6849 hectares described as part of lot 2 on plan MCH5054 (to be described as lot 1 on SP314659), as illustrated on the attached sketch.

**Description of areas to be dedicated**

Ngalba Bulal National Park	An area of about 9.9 hectares described as part of lot 165 on plan FTY1722 (to be described as lot 1 on AP23568), as illustrated on the attached sketch.
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2. That Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts for submission to the Governor in Council.

The growth and conservation of protected areas is a significant responsibility for any government. The Nature Conservation Act 1992 provides for a national park to be managed to the greatest possible extent for the permanent preservation of the area's natural condition and the protection of the area's cultural resources and values. The Palaszczuk government is committed to that management and protection, while understanding the need to provide for opportunities that will be of benefit to traditional owners and the community.

Protected areas in Queensland include both publicly owned and managed, or jointly managed, protected areas such as national parks and conservation parks. I will only support the revocation of land from protected areas and forestry estates where it can be clearly demonstrated that: it is in the interests of the specific tenure; it provides for greater protected area management effectiveness; there is a net conservation benefit as a result; it is in the interests of First Nation peoples and the public; and there is no reasonable practical alternative.

With such a large and dispersed protected area and forest reserve estate, there is the occasional need to revoke the dedication of areas for particular reasons. The revocation proposals being debated here today have been given careful consideration, and in each instance consultation has occurred with state and local government agencies, landholders and interested groups and persons, and of course First Nation peoples.

I can confirm to the House that the proposal to revoke part of Monkhouse Timber Reserve will not extinguish or affect native title or native title rights and interests in relation to the land. The timber reserve contains an area of about 9.9 hectares, and its revocation will allow the area to be dedicated as part of the existing Ngalba Bulal National Park, about 50 kilometres south of Cooktown. This action is a small yet important part of progressing the Eastern Kuku Yalanji land dealing to transfer the existing Daintree, Ngalba Bulal, Black Mountain and Hope Islands national parks and other lands to jointly managed national park inside the Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal land project, encompassing an area of approximately 160,000 hectares. The revocation of this section of the timber reserve will form part of the government's commitment to hand back this land to its rightful traditional owners as part of the Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Program. Handback of this timber reserve land to Aboriginal traditional owners is scheduled for later this year. However, this handback time frame may be affected by the ability to conclude tenure negotiations with Eastern Kuku Yalanji representatives, given the current travel restrictions due to COVID-19.

The timber reserve was originally planned to be included into Ngalba Bulal National Park in 2007; however, a mining interest over the land precluded this action. The small area of timber reserve we are talking about today is very unusual in its dimensions, being 50 metres wide and two kilometres long. It generally follows one of the unnamed waterways which were mined for tin, gold and tungsten. In terms of the natural landscape, the area is very remote, with steep, mountainous, rainforest terrain. It has no dedicated access and is surrounded by the Ngalba Bulal National Park on all sides. The whole timber reserve was included as part of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, thereby recognising the land as having an additional level of natural and cultural significance. The mining lease over the timber reserve was surrendered in 2017. This opened the way for the revocation to proceed and the land transfer to progress.

Expanding partnerships and joint management opportunities with First Nation peoples is a priority of the Palaszczuk government. When it comes to fire management, QPWS works collaboratively with more than 30 First Nation groups when implementing fire within protected areas. This involvement can be at a management planning stage or on the ground with the planning and direct application of fire. The LNP opposition recently proposed a trial of this kind of fire management partnership, but let me be clear to the House that our government is far beyond a trial. We are already in partnership with First Nation people, and we will continue to build on those partnerships because we know that their experience and knowledge of Queensland's environmental and cultural landscape is invaluable to its conservation.

The proposal to revoke part of Kondalilla National Park, containing an area of about 0.15 hectares, will allow for a public road upgrade about 10 kilometres north of Maleny. The Sunshine Coast Regional Council is undertaking to seal a section of Flaxton Mill Road. During preliminary investigations, council determined that parts of the constructed gravel road encroach slightly on the national park. The encroachment of these five small areas requires resolution prior to council conducting the roadworks. The upgrade works will retain the existing road alignment and width with minor adjustment, add additional gravel pavement and provide a bitumen sealed surface to the existing road. The proposed scope of works will minimise construction impact on the values of Kondalilla National Park and is expected to reduce the impact of dust and siltation from the operation of the road on the national park once the work is completed. Suitable compensation for the loss of any inherent natural, environmental, social and cultural values associated with the area being revoked has been agreed upon with the Department of Environment and Science.

The proposal for the revocation of part of Duggan Conservation Park, containing an area of about 0.69 hectares, is for public road purposes about 1.5 kilometres south-east of Hervey Bay. The current infrastructure of Boundary Road and Denmans Camp Road does not currently have the capacity to meet future requirements. This route has been designated by the Fraser Coast Regional Council as the secondary east-west traffic distributor for the city of Hervey Bay, connecting the suburbs of Urangan and Urraween.

The council plans to extend Boundary Road to the west through to Urraween Road over the next four to five years. The project is estimated at \$20 million and is a cornerstone of the local government infrastructure plan. Consideration was given to finding alternative routes or designs that would not impact on the conservation park, and it was determined that no other practical routes could be used to meet this function.

The scope of the upgrade works includes doubling the current road capacity to four lanes, a district footpath, an open drainage channel and a major services corridor. The proposal is supported by an environmental management plan that has determined practical measures to minimise impacts on the conservation park through identifying and reducing impacts on the natural and cultural values of the site. These measures include minimal vegetation removal and rerouting a portion of the open drainage stormwater flow to avoid significant impacts to the site. Suitable compensation has been agreed with the Department of Environment and Science.

Since 2015 the Palaszczuk government has grown the protected area estate in Queensland by more than one million hectares, and we take the responsibility of this conservation very seriously. These revocations are in the best interests of Queensland communities. I urge all members to support the motion before the House.