




Speech By
Cynthia Lui

MEMBER FOR COOK

Record of Proceedings, 13 May 2021

MOTION

Revocation of Protected Areas

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (4.09 pm): I rise to second the motion to revoke the dedication of 2,532 square metres of land as national park under section 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992. The revocation of part of Daintree National Park allows for the realignment of road reserve over Upper Daintree Road to cover the physically constructed road. The action would allow ongoing public use of the road corridor and maintenance by Douglas Shire Council to service road users. The proposal has minimal impact on the natural, environmental, social or cultural values of the national park.

Alternative solutions to realigning the road reserve would involve unnecessary clearing of remnant riverine vegetation and are not economically feasible. The proposal will also improve management of the national park by removing a portion of constructed road. Compensation for the loss of protected area estate has been agreed upon with the Department of Environment and Science in line with departmental policies. As the revocation is administrative in nature and there will be no impact on continued public access, I will support the Department of Environment and Science's approach to not finalise this revocation until the Indigenous land use agreement with Eastern Kuku Yalanji people has been executed.

This government is serious about building partnerships and working collaboratively with First Nations people, and the progression of this action shows how we are working together to achieve the right outcome for traditional owners and the local community. Similar tenure negotiations have been finalised in my electorate since 2007 which have resulted in far-reaching benefits for Aboriginal people, including landownership. I commend the motion to the House.