




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2021

MOTION

Revocation and Dedication of Protected Areas

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (4.59 pm): I rise to lend my support to some of the comments made by the opposition. At the outset, I also note that I support the shadow minister in his support for the revocation. In many instances this process is very important and has been done by both sides of the chamber. As we are coming up to bushfire season, particularly with my electorate of Nanango in mind, I feel I need to put on the record some statements in relation to the state government's management of the national parks, particularly the protected area estates. In the past couple of bushfire seasons, unfortunately I witnessed some of the most horrific bushfire damage. Bushfires ravaged through areas of the Southern Downs, the Scenic Rim, areas in the electorate of the member for Theodore, within my electorate particularly around the Linville and Somerset regions and then up into areas around Gympie. There are a couple of issues that I want to touch on.

First, bushfires predominantly—I would suggest over 95 to 98 per cent of the time—start on government owned land. That leads me to the issue that we on this side of the House constantly raise with the government in relation to protected estates, which is that they need to be managed properly. I note that the member for Southern Downs talked about bad neighbours and the bad neighbour policy. That is exactly what we have when landholders live beside national parks. I will say that the rangers, particularly the rangers based out of Kingaroy whom I know, are hardworking, decent and incredible people but they are run off their feet.

An opposition member: Under-resourced.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: They are absolutely under-resourced.

A government member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am happy to take that interjection because it shows how arrogant and stupid—sorry; I withdraw. For those on the government benches to make such an interjection simply shows their arrogance and misunderstanding. I am sure that the minister would counsel her colleague against that because it has actually been close to nine years since the then premier of Queensland stood in this House and spoke about a reduction in the Public Service. I suggest to the member who just called out that that was not in forestry. It was not in the positions that we are talking about. If it is the case that that member so arrogantly thinks that that is still the problem, why in heavens hasn't the Palaszczuk government re-employed them? Why haven't more people been employed in the past seven years? For goodness sake!

Ms Scanlon interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I hear the minister saying, 'We have.' I suggest that more needs to be done because bushfires start in the protected forests that are under the ambit of the minister. This is real. People's homes burn down.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am happy to take that interjection as well. I know that through this fire season I will again, like I do every fire season, write to the minister to plead on a couple of fronts. One of the fronts that I want to talk about is a very serious issue. It is water. Water is taken from people's land beside the protected area—

Mr BROWN: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The revocation is quite specific. My point of order is in regards to relevance. We have entertained this for a fair while now. I ask that the speaker be drawn back to relevance in regard to the revocation itself.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member for Nanango, I ask that you come back to the motion.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I very much will because it is vitally important. The revocation of land in a protected area is very important, as I have mentioned. I heard the minister's speech. I sat here and diligently listened. I note that the maintenance of protected areas is very important and I put on the record the issue around water when those areas go up in flames. I can see that the member is trying to shut me down. It is a protection racket and we get that.

Mr BROWN: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order, again on relevance. You cannot say, 'I want to get to water.' You have to be specific to the revocation itself.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: And I will.

Mr BROWN: There is water all over the planet.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, I ask that you come back to the motion.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: We are talking about the protected forest and during the bushfire season a neighbour's water can be taken from their dam. That happened at Widgee, as the member for Gympie knows full well. I wrote to the minister about this issue during the last bushfire season. I ask the minister, as the one responsible for the protected area estates, to please take this into consideration. We support the protected area estates and it is vitally important that we continue to do so. As the minister responsible for those lands, I suggest to the minister that it would be great to see some dirty boots on the ground in order to actually understand the neighbour and the good neighbour rule.