




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR THEODORE

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MOTION

Revocation and Dedication of Protected Areas

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (4.54 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the revocation. I commend this additional land being included in the Main Range National Park. I have been to the Main Range National Park many times. Like many of my colleagues, I want to talk about the management of those areas. Parts of the Main Range National Park have beautiful beech tree forests. If members get a chance to visit those beech tree forests it is like going back in time. Those areas were heavily hit in the 2019 bushfires. Around 96 per cent of the Gondwana forest in the Main Range National Park was heavily affected by the fire.

A beech tree forest is normally a wet environment. As many scientists will contest, for thousands of years they have never experienced fire. They are covered in lichen which grows on the sides of the trees. They are a mist forest—a cloud forest. It is something that you would literally go back in time to see. I have been to Mount Superbus and the area is truly beautiful. I say to the minister that we need to ensure that the damage to those forests is not terminal. The fear is that after that fire weeds will now start taking over, potentially damaging the regrowth of those beech tree forests. Beech tree forests take a long time to grow. Some of the beech trees would have been around when Captain Cook went up the east coast of Australia.

We need to ensure that proper fire management is in place to protect these areas. Whilst it is great to add to the area of national park—it is wonderful to do that—if we do not protect those rare, endangered Gondwana forests then they will be lost to history. As other members have alluded to, when it comes to national parks and state forests, farmers do not like the state government as a neighbour because it is not properly managing these areas. There is lantana and fireweed coming from those areas. There are wild pigs and dogs.

The Australian Defence Force neighbours my parents' property at Beechmont. They manage their forests well. They do regular burnoffs. They regularly manage the undergrowth to ensure that weed growth is minimised and also to stop potential wildfires in those areas. They are very good neighbours. I say to the minister, through the chair, that we need to ensure that we properly manage these forests to ensure that the beech tree forests—the cloud forests—are protected for generations to come.

I say to all members, if you get a chance to go to Mount Superbus do get up there. It is a bit of a hike through the vine forests and the tracks are not particularly marked—I do not think there is much of a track actually. You get to go past a Lancaster bomber which everybody seems to take a few parts off every time they go past. It is the highest point in South-East Queensland and the views at the top are absolutely spectacular. It is something that you will love. We need to properly manage these areas to prevent hot wildfires and to ensure that there is not lantana growing in them and going into neighbouring properties.