




Speech By
Hon. Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2021

MOTION

Revocation and Dedication of Protected Areas

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (5.05 pm): Firstly, I thank the members for their participation in the debate on the revocation of part of Glen Rock State Forest. I want to address a couple of the matters that have been raised by those opposite, particularly the members for Lockyer, Southern Downs, Theodore and Nanango, who talked a lot about properly funding the management of national parks. As I have said previously, our budget makes a \$394 million annual investment in our Parks and Wildlife Service, which is an annual increase of \$80 million over the budget provided by the Newman government.

It is also important to put on record the history of people such as the member for Nanango, who was the assistant treasurer who was responsible for cutting nearly 500 jobs in the Department of Environment and Science, including 60 ranger positions. It is interesting that they come in here and talk about management yet their own track record does the opposite.

When it comes to the protected area estate that the member for Bonney talked about, as I have said previously since 2015 this government has increased the extent of our protected areas across Queensland by 1.2 million hectares and committed \$60 million to continue to expand that area. We have doubled the number of Indigenous land and sea rangers, investing an additional \$24 million into that particular program. More recently, we have protected more land on Wild Duck Island, Mon Repos Conservation Park, Pinnacles National Park and a whole range of additional protected areas.

It was also interesting to again hear the discussions around the protection of biodiversity. Of course we need to increase our protected area estate but there are other measures that we can take to protect biodiversity. I note the measures we have put in place in comparison to those opposite, who while in government oversaw the equivalent of 1,000 football fields of habitat loss each day due to repealing tree clearing laws.

Those opposite talked about bushfires. It is a fact that we have exceeded our planned burn target and we will continue to do so. It is interesting that members come in here and talk about the increased risk of bushfires in our national parks yet continually oppose action on climate change. We heard a lot of contributions from the Nationals opposite, but they absent when it comes to climate action.

I am pleased that we do have support for this motion, which is an important motion. We will continue to invest in the environment because it is the Queensland Labor Party that always protects our environment. I thank the honourable members who took part in the debate. I urge all members to support the motion.