




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) (4.26 pm): 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 State forest; and
 - (b) dedicate by regulation under section 29 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the revoked area of the aforementioned state forest as a new conservation park and additions to an existing national park;as set out in the proposal tabled by me in the House today, viz

Description of areas to be revoked

Glen Rock State Forest	An area of about 6299.409 hectares described as lot 123 on plan CC390, lot 149 on plan CC496, lot 84 on plan CC935, lot 9 on plan CC2304, lot 97 on plan CC836182, lot 10 on plan CH31292, lot 23 on plan CH311139, lot 30 on plan CH311898, lot 96 on plan CH312503 and lot 105 on plan CH312522 (to be dedicated as the new Main Range Conservation Park and additions to Main Range National Park), as illustrated on the attached sketch.
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Description of areas to be dedicated

Main Range Conservation Park	An area of about 2891.226 hectares described as lot 123 on plan CC390, lot 149 on plan CC496, lot 9 on plan CC2304, lot 10 on plan CH31292, lot 23 on plan CH311139, lot 30 on plan CH311898 and lot 96 on plan CH312503, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Main Range National Park	An area of about 3408.183 hectares described as lot 84 on plan CC935, lot 97 on plan CC836182, and lot 105 on plan C11312522, as illustrated on the attached sketch.

2. That Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs for submission to the Governor in Council.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to protecting Queensland's unique natural and cultural values by expanding and better managing the protected area estate. Continuing to expand and invest in our protected areas will enable us to conserve these values into the future, preserving our rich culture and securing the lifestyle that Queenslanders and our visitors value and enjoy. It will see the transfer of approximately 6,299 hectares from Glen Rock State Forest to the protected area estate, specifically, to dedicate the new Main Range Conservation Park and make additions to Main Range National Park.

When the Goss government acquired Glen Rock in 1995 for \$1.8 million, it was one of the largest cattle grazing properties in South-East Queensland. Glen Rock's pastoral history still features in heritage infrastructure, such as fences, gates and paddocks, that contribute to the character of the

property. This adds to its popularity for outdoor recreational opportunities, including camping, day-use, bushwalking and horseriding. It is also crucial to acknowledge the history that precedes these uses and that First Nations peoples lived in, and passed through, the area for thousands of years before cattle grazing began.

In acknowledgment of the importance of this history and the ongoing aspirations of traditional owners, the Department of Environment and Science is currently working with the Yuggera Ugarapul people in a planning process. This process will identify key values of the Glen Rock and Main Range aggregation and determine future management requirements that best address the threats to those values.

Glen Rock State Forest contains significant environmental values that would contribute to our state's protected area estate. The area contains core habitat for a number of threatened species listed under the Nature Conservation Act 1992, including the endangered red goshawk and the vulnerable brush-tailed rock-wallaby, koala, glossy black-cockatoo and greater glider. The rivers and creeks on the property support key riparian habitat and are part of an important aquifer recharge area for the Lockyer Creek system, which is a tributary of the Brisbane River.

The vegetation on Glen Rock forms part of a state significant biodiversity corridor through to the Bunya Mountains and further north. When transferred, the area will combine with the existing Main Range National Park to host over 41,000 hectares of protected area ranging from the New South Wales border, adjacent to the incredible Mount Barney National Park, and extending north along the Great Dividing Range.

The transfer of most of Glen Rock State Forest requires that the area is revoked from its current declaration as state forest and subsequently dedicated as protected area. It is proposed that the majority of the area will be transferred to national park and that the remainder of the area will be transferred to conservation park, allowing for a wider variety of activities whilst leaving open the opportunity for further upgrade to national park in the future.

This split was welcomed by the Queensland Conservation Council, whose protected areas program manager Andrew Piccone said—

The split of national and conservation parks provides a balanced outcome ensuring park users can still enjoy the existing recreational opportunities including mountain biking and horse riding in appropriate areas.

The Palaszczuk government is investing a record \$1.4 billion to protect the environment and create jobs as part of Queensland's economic recovery plan. That includes a \$394 million annual investment in our parks and wildlife service. That funding is not only helping to increase our protected areas but, importantly, means we can hire more rangers and purchase more equipment to maintain our ever-expanding protected areas.

Since 2015 the Palaszczuk government has increased the extent of protected areas across Queensland by 1.2 million hectares and committed \$60 million to continue expanding such areas. It is currently more than twice the size of the whole of Tasmania.

I am very proud that the motion today will enable us to continue our work to expand and upgrade our protected area estate for the benefit of all Queenslanders. I urge all members of the House to support the motion to upgrade this area so that its environmental significances are protected into the future. I commend the motion to the House.