



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 November 2022

**MOTION**

**Revocation and Dedication of Protected Areas and State Forest Areas (Cognate Debate)**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (12.15 pm): I too rise to contribute to the revocation motion that is before the House. Like other members have said, this is a really important part of the process. We as members of parliament get notifications of the proposed revocations so we can communicate with our local communities and then make the decision in this House. This is the exact spot where these revocations need to be discussed and debated.

As the shadow minister, the member for Bonney, has said, we will be supporting these revocations. There are very important reasons for the three revocations I wish to talk about to go ahead. The first one is in relation to Oakview, which sits in the great electorate of Nanango.

I heard the previous speaker talk about revocations going towards infrastructure projects, and that is correct. This revocation is going towards extending the conservation of lands. It is literally taking a small bit of the Oakview State Forest and transferring it into the Oakview National Park. For any members who are interested—and I know the whole House will be riveted by this—it is a very small parcel of land. It looks like it will align with the national park more sensibly. I fully support that on behalf of the people of the Nanango electorate. The brief explanation of the proposal says 'to be dedicated as additions to the existing Oakview National Park in recognition of the conservation value of these lands'. That is why I will be supporting that.

There are many great tracts of national parks through the electorate of Nanango. I was at the Bunya Mountains on the weekend—and what a beautiful part of the world that is. I will be approaching the minister about the issue we have there where our rural fires need a toilet. They have put in for a toilet and they cannot get one because their fire shed backs on to land held by the Western Downs Regional Council. We just need a bit of realignment so we can put in toilet facilities for those hardworking fires. They definitely deserve it. Unfortunately we know there are some problems in national parks and state forest lands around making sure we are looking after them properly, so the fire season does come upon us very quickly. Those rural fires need somewhere safe to go to the bathroom. I will be continuing my advocacy in relation to that.

I want to talk about the two other revocations. One is the Conondale revocation. That is important. I know that the minister said something about a mango. I was not in the House.

**Mr O'Connor:** The size of a mango—the drilling.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** It is for drilling holes the size of a mango. It is important. It was not this minister; it was the Minister for Energy, I think—

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** No, that minister may not mention mangos! It is important because of the proposed pumped hydro. The shadow minister for agriculture and I have both been on Borumba Dam. I give a shout-out to Chris Mangold, who put us in his tinnie and took us quite extensively around Borumba Dam, right up into all the reaches of Borumba Dam.

It is very important that the project gets the approval it needs. It is interesting to note that a lot of the land to be resumed around there is already owned by the state government, and therefore the impacts on those landholders are quite negligible. There are two upper reservoirs that will need to be built, and Powerlink has been working extremely hard with my community for the last several years on where those big transmission lines will go should this project go ahead. It is deeply concerning when you hear that all of this work has been done. There is a proposal to raise the dam wall by 20 metres and two upper reservoirs need to be built. Powerlink has been doing all of the work in the community, and they have been doing that for several years and doing it well. Let's hope this works. They have to do this so they can do a test site. It is deeply concerning to both the member for Gympie and me as local members that this project may not get up. Let's hope that drilling works, because the member for Gympie and I have been overly supportive of the pumped hydro at Borumba for many years.

That is in contrast to the Pioneer Valley pumped hydro, where there is no business case and no test sites. There are two national parks either side of the proposed main dam site and two reservoirs are going to be up the top. People have had phone calls to say, 'Your house is going to get ripped down and bulldozed', but I have not seen any revocations come through this House in relation to that project. I have not seen any of the preworks that will be needed for that area. I note that the member for Mackay is in the House. I know that Netherdale locals spoke at length at a community meeting about their angst, distress and upset.

**Mrs Gilbert** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection from the member for Mackay, who just said, 'It's not distress, it's their homes.' I am sorry, member for Mackay, I have been on the ground and they are distressed.

**Mrs GILBERT:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence. She is misleading parliament. She is misrepresenting my words.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Member for Mackay, there are procedures if you have that issue. Are you raising a point of order?

**Mrs GILBERT:** I take personal offence at what she said and I ask her to withdraw.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I withdraw. The offence the people of Netherdale take against the member for Mackay is huge. It is interesting to hear a member whose electorate sits in the centre of Brisbane, the member for Aspley, call out something that is so trivial and so ridiculous, because he knows there is no greater supporter of dams—

**Mr Mellish** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** He can laugh all he wants because the member who sits in that seat has no understanding of what people in regional Queensland go through so he can have what he wants.

**Mr MELLISH:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at those comments and ask that they be withdrawn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Nanango, it might assist the House if you withdraw that.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I withdraw. It is important to note that the member for Aspley said—

**Mrs Gilbert:** You're a mean girl. You can get better.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection every day of the week, member for Mackay, and I hope Hansard got it. Let me tell you what the people of Netherdale and that area are saying about the member for Mackay. Please, member for Mackay, take the ministers and the Premier and go back and listen to the community. For two years the government has been working behind the scenes with Powerlink on the Borumba project. Powerlink has been talking to the community. Bringing the community along with you is exactly what you have to do for big projects. You do not just ring them up the night before an announcement is made and say, 'Your house is going to be flooded' and then say they are not distressed. Goodness me, how out of touch is that member!

**Mrs GILBERT:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence. The member is repeating what she said before when I took personal offence. I asked her to withdraw and I ask her to withdraw again.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I withdraw.

**Ms Scanlon:** How many did you consult with about the Bradford scheme? How many people weren't consulted about that?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I am more than happy to take that interjection because I did not go and say that we were going to flood people's homes without talking to them. We had dedicated—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister and member for Nanango, you will not exchange comments across the chamber.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** That is what planning is about, putting \$20 million towards a planning study so if your house is going to be flooded or if your backyard is going to be taken just so people in Aspley can turn on the lights every day—

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** That is exactly right, and those poor public servants who have had to communicate that. People have rung me and said, 'On behalf of the government this is what we had to do.' They are so disgusted with the process and the lack of communication, and that is coming from within your own government. Your people are telling us this—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Through the chair, member for Nanango.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** That is how upset they are about this. We do not take this lightly. That is why when we are talking about a revocation for pumped hydro—

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Absolutely. That is why we are completely supporting it, but what we are saying is that there is another project that is hurting people. I know the member for Lytton said 'isn't it going to be wonderful' because her community is talking about it, but her community is not going to be flooded! Her community gets to turn the lights on when this big project gets up, but her community does not have to be consulted about their homes being flooded. They do not have to worry about a road on either side of pristine national parks. There has been no community consultation on this project. Consultation with the local community is important. Bringing your community along with you is important. That is exactly why I am pleading with this government to open up your eyes, use your ears and listen.

*(Time expired)*