



Speech By  
**James Lister**


**MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS**

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Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2022

**MOTION**

**Revocation and Dedication of Protected Areas**

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (3.21 pm): I am glad to hear that the member for Noosa is satisfied with this arrangement. I acknowledge the partnership that is being spoken about here between local government and traditional owners in terms of maintaining these alterations to the national park. I also listened to a number of speakers talk at length about the amount of additional national park that the Labor government have accrued—I think I heard the figure of over a million hectares—since they came to office.

I would like to say that I wish the degree of care and concern that is going into maintaining this national park would be exercised for the national parks in my own electorate, like Main Range National Park, Sundown and Girraween. When I hear the government talk about the quantity of additional national park, I always ask myself: where is the quality? If national parks are supposed to be places where natural biodiversity is maintained to make them beautiful places for people to visit, I have no problem with that, but I do have concerns about national parks not being managed as well as they should be. I talk about things like fire trails, where access to a national park for firefighters becomes limited when they become overgrown and when the undergrowth thrives so that when a bushfire does pass through it causes environmental damage and threatens neighbouring properties.

**Ms Scanlon** interjected.

**Mr LISTER:** I cannot hear the interjection. I want to make a constructive contribution on this motion. I urge the government in all cases to ensure that the parks are maintained to a high standard—not just in respect of fuel loads but also in respect of noxious weeds and invasive pests. I am talking about harrisia cactus, boxthorn, lovegrass, fireweed, blackberry and lantana. I am talking about wild pigs which do a lot of damage to neighbouring primary producers by running through their crops and so forth. I am talking about deer and wild dogs which attack lambs and calves and make the economic situations of the people I represent difficult.

When a motion of this form comes before the House, I will always take the opportunity to ask the government to improve their act on these matters. The feedback I get from my own electors who actually go into the national parks is that they are not being managed well, particularly in respect of invasive pests, fencing and fuel loads. I urge the government to improve their game in these areas and to manage them as well as they can be under this proposal.