




Speech By
Sandy Bolton

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2022

MOTION

Revocation and Dedication of Protected Areas

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (3.19 pm): I rise to briefly speak to the section of the motion that relates to the Noosa electorate. As we have heard, the revocation is for over 376 hectares of Ringtail State Forest described as lots 9, 10 and 12 on AP22503 and part of lot 5 on AP22503, as well as 664 hectares of Tewantin National Park described as lots 9, 10 and 12 on AP22503 and part of lot 5 on AP22503. This is stage 2 of the Yurol and Ringtail conservation project which I spoke about previously in this chamber in 2019. This project is one that the Noosa electorate is extremely and rightfully proud of, as should all of Queensland.

The staged approach being undertaken has allowed the task of restoration activities to not be overwhelming to the organisations and volunteers involved in this first-of-a-kind project for Queensland. Jointly funded by the Department of Environment and Science, Noosa council and Noosa Parks Association, with a collaboration involving the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and HQPlantations, this project demonstrates what can be achieved in efforts to conserve and protect. Proudly, Noosa boasts over 35 per cent of land under protection or conservation, and these efforts add to a long line of endeavours over many years.

It has been wonderful to see Greenfleet coming on board with training and funding to work with our Kabi Kabi Peoples Aboriginal Corporation in planting koala habitat and the creation of jobs for our young First Nations people, taking the partnerships in this project to new levels. As the minister outlined, the added bonus is that this project assists in reducing the impacts from carbon emissions as these trees grow.

Over the past months, many have been involved in plantings in stage 1, including Koala Crusaders via grants from Body Shop UK and Australia, right through to coffee being provided by Terri and Deadly Espresso. There have been so many wonderful examples of all coming together. In the coming weeks, months and years, many more will be involved, including organisations such as Noosa & District Landcare. It is both the journey as well as the destination that is being wonderfully shared and is one to truly celebrate. My gratitude goes to all involved over this long journey, including Ministers Scanlon, Enoch and Miles, and all who will be involved into the future. Ultimately, at the end of the project, Tewantin National Park will comprise 5,500 hectares and provide the connectivity needed for our flora and fauna as well as for our people. I commend the motion to the House.