




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

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MOTION

Revocation and Dedication of Protected Areas

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (6.02 pm): I rise to speak in support of the revocations proposed for part of the Great Sandy Marine Park being debated by the House today. The revocation of several small areas of the Great Sandy Marine Park result in minor but necessary modifications to the marine park boundary that will have no impact on the integrity of the marine park itself.

The key objective of the Great Sandy Marine Park Zoning Plan Review was to ensure the outer boundary of the marine park is defined in such a way that the accuracy and understanding of the extent of the marine park is improved. The revised outer boundary will result in a net increase in the area of the marine park by approximately 400 square kilometres, or about 40,000 hectares. This seven per cent increase in the area reflects a more accurate inclusion of the extent of the tidal land and tidal waters not shown on the statutory plan and revised mapping of the offshore extent of Queensland state waters.

The extent of the marine park is currently described in the Marine Parks (Declaration) Regulation 2006 by reference to a statutory plan and a list of tidal areas that are excluded from the marine park. Currently, the statutory plan can be difficult to interpret at the scale required to support marine park management, both for park managers and from a local user's perspective, with these inaccuracies being confusing and leading to misinterpretation of the Great Sandy Marine Park Zone. We know that this can cause issues around compliance when enjoying the use of the Great Sandy Marine Park.

The list of exclusions includes areas under or within 30 metres of 30 public boating infrastructure facilities; however, not all such infrastructure is listed. Some of the revocations are required to exclude public boating infrastructure from the marine park. Currently, not all public boat ramps, associated jetties and pontoons are excluded from the marine park, and the action to revoke the area within 30 metres of all boat ramps in the marine park is sensible. It reduces red tape, as authorities such as local councils will be able to carry out maintenance and improvements to these boat ramps within the excluded footprint without having to obtain a marine park permit. That is vitally important for local councils, who make sure these boat ramps are compliant and safe for users. That is a great outcome of this revocation.

The other proposed revocations are in the Kolan and Mary rivers and Snapper Creek at Tin Can Bay, where the current marine park boundary is not logical and needs rectifying. In the Kolan River, the revocation there will sensibly remove significant public railway infrastructure and a weir from the marine park. In the Mary River, the boundary will be moved a short distance downstream to link with a definable feature to ensure that users of the marine park can more easily determine where the boundary is. In Snapper Creek, areas near a sewage treatment plant are currently in the marine park. Here the marine park boundary will be moved a short distance downstream to ensure some separation between the marine park and sewage treatment infrastructure. As I said earlier, the exclusion of these areas from

the marine park will allow relevant authorities to carry out maintenance to all boat ramps in the marine park without the need to obtain a marine park permit. That will just make it a lot easier for them to do their work and keep those ramps safe.

In the overall scheme of things, at 26 hectares the revocations represent a very small part of the Great Sandy Marine Park and the total area of state marine parks more broadly. In addition, each revocation proposal is well founded and, in combination with the recent reviews of the marine park's zoning plan, demonstrate that this government takes sensible measures to improve the protection and management of the state's marine parks. Overall, the revised description of the marine park's boundary will be more accurate and logical and will support the production of digital maps for use in products such as fishing apps and navigational software to improve the understanding of the extent of the marine park. We know that is important for our boaties and our fishos, who need to have detailed maps so they can enjoy the park and make sure they are keeping within the compliance requirements of the park.

It was interesting to hear the member for Bonney talk about this government's record in environmental management. I must say that that is a little bit rich coming from that side of politics. The Newman government were the worst environmental vandals in Queensland's history. I must admit that I am a little bit surprised by his comment. He should go back and read the history of environmental management from his side of politics, not ours. We are making sure that we are looking after our environment. As you have seen from the plan, what we are doing for sustainable fishing in the Great Sandy Marine Park is a good thing for sustainable practices as we moved forward.

I absolutely support the member for Pumicestone's comments regarding what the member for Bonney said. She was also knowledgeable in that area. We know that the former LNP government was not that great a manager of our environment. With that, I would like to also acknowledge the rangers and Indigenous rangers who have done great work in ensuring our marine parks are kept safe and in a usable condition for users of the Great Sandy Marine Park. I would also like to give a shout-out to the minister and the government for increasing the number of rangers and Indigenous rangers to ensure our areas continue to be protected and valued.

I would also like to mention some of the comments made by the member for Burnett, who has acknowledged the good work that has been done on these revocations. I absolutely agree with his words and I also acknowledge the work done to improve the use of the Great Sandy Marine Park. On that basis, I commend the motion to the House. I encourage other members of the House to support these proposals.