



Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**


**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2023

**MOTION**

**Revocation and Dedication of Protected Areas**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.18 pm): In the very short time remaining on this debate, I want to address three parcels. Two of those reside in the electorate of Glass House and one is adjacent to it, which the member for Mount Ommaney just mentioned. There is a proposed revocation of part of Luttons State Forest to be added to the existing Glass House Mountains Conservation Park. There is a part of the Mount Mee State Forest being revoked and added to the D'Aguilar National Park. As was mentioned, part of the Beerwah State Forest is being added to a newly created Mooloolah River Conservation Park.

At the outset, as has been said by others on this side, we certainly support these changes. However, I do want to raise two matters briefly. The first was well canvassed by the member for Gympie. By converting state forest into conservation park or national park, we are crueling ourselves ultimately. On my understanding of what was colloquially known as Ferny Forest, what was going to be harvested selectively were a number of telegraph poles. The question now is: where are they coming from and are we going to be importing them from nations that have poorer standards of environmental practice than we have? As mentioned by the member of Gympie, there were commitments given, particularly when the South East Queensland Forests Agreement was first put into place and subsequently when the sale of Forestry Plantations Queensland was made, that there would be hardwood plantations around the state of Queensland that could be used for these purposes. They have not materialised.

The second thing I would say is that, whilst I understand that people are very passionate about protecting the environment—do not get me wrong; I am not suggesting that Ferny Forest should not be protected—some of the tactics are not accurate. For example, my daughter, who is a Venturer, came home and said, 'Dad, you've got to stop Ferny Forest because we won't be able to ride our mountain bikes through Ferny Forest if the logging goes ahead,' suggesting that it was somehow going to be clear-felled. It was simply the case that whilst the selective logging was going to be occurring it was unsafe for those bikes to go through. As I explained to her, if it actually became a national park then her mountain biking certainly would be curtailed. I do note that it is only going to become a conservation park. My comment to the minister is that I hope practices like mountain biking will continue to be able to be undertaken in that part of the former Beerwah State Forest, the now new Mooloolah River Conservation Park, because getting out into the environment is the way that future generations will understand it is important and will want to protect it.