




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGEЕ

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2023

MOTION

Revocation and Dedication of Protected Areas

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (5.32 pm): On behalf of the Minister for Housing, I move—

1. That this House requests the Governor in Council to:
 - (a) revoke by regulation under section 9 of the Marine Parks Act 2004 the declaration of parts of a marine park;
 - (b) revoke by regulation under section 30 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the setting apart and declaration of the entirety of one timber reserve and one State forest, and parts of four State forests;
 - (c) dedicate by regulation under section 29 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the revoked areas of the aforementioned State forests and timber reserve as three new conservation parks, part of two existing conservation parks and an addition to one existing national park;
 - (d) revoke by regulation under section 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the dedication of parts of one national park and parts of two conservation parks;

as set out in the Proposal tabled by me in the House today, viz

Description of areas to be revoked

Great Sandy Marine Park	An area of 0.3214 hectares, under, and within 30 metres of the public boat ramp on the north bank of the Kolan River adjacent to the caravan park near Miara Road, Miara, illustrated on the attached sketch as 1.
Great Sandy Marine Park	An area of 0.11 hectares, under, and within 30 metres of the public boat ramp identified as W041 near Burkitt Street, Bargara, illustrated on the attached sketch as 2.
Great Sandy Marine Park	An area of 0.5196 hectares, under, and within 30 metres of the public boat ramp identified as W031 near the Esplanade, Innes Park, illustrated on the attached sketch as 3.
Great Sandy Marine Park	An area of 0.1299 hectares, under, and within 30 metres of the public boat ramp identified as W011 and the public pontoon identified as W012 on the north bank of the Elliott River near McIntosh Avenue, Riverview, illustrated on the attached sketch as 4.
Great Sandy Marine Park	An area of 0.0632 hectares, under, and within 30 metres of the public boat ramp identified as HB56 and the public pontoon identified as H1374 on the south bank of the Burrum River near Ross Street, Burrum Heads, illustrated on the attached sketch as 5.
Great Sandy Marine Park	An area of 0.4743 hectares, under, and within 30 metres of the barge ramp identified as HB13 on the north bank of the Mary River on the eastern side of North Head near North Esplanade, Bingham, illustrated on the attached sketch as 6.

Great Sandy Marine Park	An area of 0.0429 hectares, under, and within 30 metres of the public boat ramps identified as MB40 and MB41 on the west bank of Big Tuan Creek near Bottlebrush Road, Tuan, illustrated on the attached sketch as 7.
Great Sandy Marine Park	An area of 0.0036 hectares, under, and within 30 metres of the public boat ramp identified as TI81 near Boat Ramp Drive, Tinnanbar, illustrated on the attached sketch as 8.
Great Sandy Marine Park	An area of 0.3439 hectares, under, and within 30 metres of the public boat ramp adjacent to Log Dump camping area in Tuan State Forest, near Tinnanbar Road on the north bank of Kauri Creek, illustrated on the attached sketch as 9.
Great Sandy Marine Park	An area of 0.2153 hectares, under, and within 30 metres of the public boat ramp identified as WI21 at the mouth of Teewah Creek near Toolara Road, Toolara, illustrated on the attached sketch as 10.
Great Sandy Marine Park	An area of 0.6179 hectares, under, and within 30 metres of the barge ramp identified as WI50 near Bullock Point Road, Bullock Point, illustrated on the attached sketch as 11.
Great Sandy Marine Park	An area of 0.2092 hectares landward of a line starting at the intersection of the marine park boundary and the parallel of latitude 25°14.687' south, then running progressively westerly along a geodesic to the point of 25°14.702' south 152°48.700' east and then southerly along a geodesic to where the mainland at Highest Astronomical Tide intersects the meridian of longitude 152°48.721' east, that is under and adjacent to the public boat ramp at Point Vernon identified as HB38, illustrated on the attached sketch as 12.
Great Sandy Marine Park	An upstream area of the Kolan River Park containing an area of 7.1192 hectares, near Avondale, associated with relocation of the upstream boundary of the marine park approximately 400 metres downstream, to exclude significant public infrastructure i.e., a rail corridor and weir, from the marine park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Great Sandy Marine Park	An upstream area of the Mary River containing an area of 10.9882 hectares, near Beaver Rock, associated with relocation of the upstream boundary of the park in this waterway approximately 330 metres downstream, to a location that can be more clearly defined, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Great Sandy Marine Park	Two areas at the upstream limit of Snapper Creek containing an area of 5.1213 hectares, at Tin Can Bay, to provide separation between the marine park and significant public infrastructure, i.e., a sewage treatment plant, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Wickham Timber Reserve	An area of about 198 hectares described as lot 766 on FTY1420 excluding lot 766 on AP6326 (to be described as lot 766 on AP23772), for dedication as part of the existing Plunkett Conservation Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Beerwah State Forest	An area of about 129 hectares described as lot 1 on AP22457, for dedication as the new Mooloolah River Conservation Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Deer Reserve State Forest	An area of about 994.9696 hectares described as part of lot 637 on FTY1905 (to be described as lots 1, 2 and 638 on AP23775), for dedication as the new Deer Reserve Conservation Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
West Cooroy State Forest	An area of about 1150 hectares described as lot 234 on FTY879 (to be described as lot 234 on AP23773), for dedication as the new West Cooroy Conservation Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Luttons State Forest	An area of about 61.4536 hectares described as part of lot 766 on FTY559 (to be described as lot 1 on AP23774), for dedication as part of the existing Glass House Mountains Conservation Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Mount Mee State Forest	An area of about 16.9031 hectares described as part of lot 893 on FTY1883 (to be described as lot 5 on AP23776), for dedication as part of the existing D'Aguilar National Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.

Daintree National Park	An area of 8.5687 hectares, described as lot 10 on SP296958 and lots 91 to 94 on W3451, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Kamerunga Conservation Park	An area of 0.821 hectares described as parts of lots 254 and 734 on NR7826 (to be described as lots 100 and 101 on SP339709), as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Tallebudgera Creek Conservation Park	An area of 0.0493 hectares described as part of lot 1 on WD804791 (to be described as lot 2 on SP340173), as illustrated on the attached sketch.

2. That Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs for submission to the Governor in Council.

Queensland's marine parks and terrestrial area estate encompasses more than 21.5 million hectares, which is more than three times the total land area of Tasmania. This parks estate hosts our state's most important conservation and cultural values. Our government acknowledges the invaluable contribution protected areas and forests provide for Queensland. This includes affording protection to our iconic and threatened species, unique cultural heritage, ensuring vital forest resources are managed sustainably, offering unforgettable tourism experiences and providing Queenslanders with their most treasured recreational opportunities. Our protected area estate is also a major contributor to Queensland's economic prosperity. It attracts more than 50 million visits per year, including significant visitors travelling from around the world. This injects billions of dollars into the Queensland economy and supports thousands of jobs across the state.

We have continued to make unprecedented investments in our protected area estate for its ongoing protection and expansion. This includes the commitment made last year of \$262.5 million in funding over four years—the single largest investment ever towards expanding the estate. The government also recently announced the outcomes of the zoning plan review for the Great Sandy Marine Park which will significantly improve the protection of marine habitats and threatened species. Importantly, the rezoning of the Great Sandy Marine Park will also enhance the Wide Bay-Burnett region's enviable nature-based and recreational fishing lifestyle and economy.

Today I bring to the House a number of proposals that ultimately further expand the terrestrial protected area, or parks estate, and protect critical habitat for our native species. Of the terrestrial revocation proposals being debated, six will deliver on the first part of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to transfer 20,000 hectares of state forest land to protected area under the Native Timber Action Plan. This will afford stronger legislative protections and management for crucial South-East Queensland habitat for threatened species, including our iconic koala.

The other terrestrial and marine revocation proposals being debated in the House today are appropriate, sensible actions that are linked with balanced public interest outcomes or necessary management of the estate. Revocation proposals that could impact our terrestrial or marine protected areas are never taken lightly and are only accepted where it is demonstrated to provide a greater benefit to the state's interests. I will outline the four terrestrial protected area revocation proposals. Then I will move on to the six terrestrial protected area transfer proposals and, finally, the marine park revocation proposals.

Two revocations relate to Daintree National Park and are agreed acts in the Eastern Kuku Yalanji 2021 National Parks Land Transfer Indigenous Land Use Agreement. This is the formal agreement for the Eastern Kuku Yalanji handback where the state handed back the Daintree National Park to its traditional owners in a joint management arrangement. The first proposal is to revoke an area comprising around eight hectares to allow the land to be granted to the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people as Aboriginal freehold. In July 2010 Cairns Regional Council and Rainforest Rescue entered into a cooperative management agreement for the use of this land as a native plant revegetation nursery. Following the deamalgamation of Douglas Shire Council from Cairns Regional Council in 2013 the land and nursery continued to be managed by Rainforest Rescue with the support of the QPWS. As part of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji handback it was agreed that use of the site would continue as a nursery to support revegetation projects in the Daintree and ownership of the land would be granted to the Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation as freehold. Jabalbina has entered into a conservation agreement with the state to declare a nature refuge covering around seven hectares, ensuring impacts to the protected area estate are minimal post revocation.

The second proposal is to revoke an area comprising around half a hectare due to changes to the ambulatory boundary of the Daintree River. This proposal will have no impacts on the conservation values of the park as the land is underwater and not currently subject to any management regime. The third proposal is to revoke around 0.8 hectares of Kamerunga Conservation Park to allow for part of the Cairns Western Arterial Road upgrade project. The road upgrade project is a three-stage, jointly funded project of the Commonwealth and Queensland governments to duplicate the road between the

Redlynch Connector Road and the Captain Cook Highway, with construction of the first stage expected to begin in mid-2024. The upgrade project will address capacity concerns for one of only two crossing points of the Barron River north of Cairns and would be the only alternative access route between Cairns CBD, the northern beaches and the Atherton Tablelands when the Captain Cook Highway is closed. This is a key infrastructure project for Far North Queensland, supporting the region's growth, economy and public safety. The revocation is expected to have minimal impacts upon Kamerunga Conservation Park as the on-ground condition of the impacted area is disturbed due to annual rainfall events that cause soil and vegetation loss along the banks of the river. Consultation has occurred with other relevant parties to support the revocation and no objections were received.

The fourth proposal is to resolve a historical access issue for the residential properties in Vantage Point Drive in Burleigh Heads. The proposed revocation area from Tallebudgera Creek Conservation Park contains an area of around 0.05 hectares and will be converted to freehold and transferred to the council of the City of Gold Coast who were trustees of the area prior to its dedication as a protected area. The revocation will resolve a long-term access issue for several adjacent residential property owners that has existed since 1989. Council was previously trustee for the area and had an informal access arrangement with property owners along Vantage Point Drive, allowing the landholders to use a physically constructed concrete driveway through the reserve to access the rear of their properties. Council considers that the residents justifiably believed they had lawful property access and that terminating the access route would be unreasonable as the landholders have made decisions regarding their properties based on this understanding. The revocation will have negligible impacts on the conservation values of Tallebudgera Creek Conservation Park as the use of the area would be unchanged.

The remaining terrestrial revocation proposals are part of an initiative that would see the early upgrade of over 2,500 hectares from state forest into protected area. The proposed revocation area of the entirety of Wickham Timber Reserve, an area of around 198 hectares, will enable the area to be upgraded to conservation park tenure, further supporting the protection of threatened or near threatened species. The upgraded area will be amalgamated with the existing Plunkett Conservation Park. The proposed revocation of part of Beerwah State Forest, comprising an area of around 129 hectares, will allow the area known locally as Ferny Forest to be upgraded to conservation park tenure, supporting the protection of threatened species, including greater glider, koala, glossy black cockatoo and the Christmas bells flower. The upgraded area of Beerwah State Forest will be dedicated as the new Mooloolah River Conservation Park.

The proposed revocation of part of Deer Reserve State Forest, an area of around 995 hectares, to conservation park tenure will support the protection of threatened species, including the koala. The upgraded area of Deer Reserve State Forest will be dedicated as the new Deer Reserve Conservation Park.

The proposed revocation of the entirety of West Cooroy State Forest, containing an area of about 1,150 hectares, to conservation park tenure will also protect habitat for several threatened species. The upgrade of state forest will be dedicated as the new West Cooroy Conservation Park. Transferring this area to conservation park will strengthen the protection of the critically endangered scrub turpentine, which is at significant risk due to the impact of the devastating fungal disease Myrtle rust.

The proposed revocation of parts of Luttons State Forest, containing an area of around 62 hectares, to conservation park will again support the protection of threatened species. The upgraded area of Luttons State Forest will be amalgamated with the existing Glass House Mountains Conservation Park. The proposed revocation of part of Mount Mee State Forest, comprising an area of around 17 hectares, to national park tenure will boost the protection of threatened species including the Bahrs scrub croton, central greater glider, koala and rib-fruited malletwood. These upgrade proposals form the first tranche of forest transfers, along with a number that I have not had time to mention, under the 20,000-hectare commitment.

I am proud to be part of a government that is also investing in the protection and expansion of not only our terrestrial land but also our Great Sandy Marine Park. There are a number of small revocations here that will allow about 26 hectares out of 600,000 hectares to be revoked from national park as part of updating our zoning plan and the boundaries there in order to remove a number of existing pieces of boating infrastructure. It will also assist in providing clearer boundaries to the existing marine park, a request from those who use the marine park. Hopefully, that will assist those who use the park now and in the future.

I am satisfied that sufficient environmental assessment has been undertaken and there is significant justification to support all of these proposed revocations. I commend the motion to the House.