




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

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MOTION

Revocation and Dedication of Protected Areas

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation) (11.59 am): I move—

1. That this House requests the Governor in Council to:
 - (a) revoke by regulation under section 26 of the Forestry Act 1959 the setting apart and declaration of the entirety of one state forest;
 - (b) revoke by regulation under section 30 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the setting apart and declaration of the entirety of four state forests and parts of eight state forests;
 - (c) dedicate by regulation under section 29 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the revoked areas of 12 of the aforementioned state forests as one new national park, parts of four existing national parks, one new conservation park and parts of four existing conservation parks;
 - (d) revoke by regulation under section 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the dedication of parts of one national park;

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

Description of areas to be revoked

Targinie State Forest	An area of about 542.764 hectares described as lot 137 on FTY1831 (to be described as lots 1 to 6 on SP346685), as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Yurolo State Forest	An area of about 479.19 hectares described as lots 3 and 4 on AP22502 and lot 5 on AP23654, for dedication as part of the existing Tewantin National Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Ringtail State Forest	An area of about 889.0402 hectares described as lots 6, 7, 8 and 11 on AP22503 and lot 5 on AP23653, for dedication as part of the existing Tewantin National Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Jimna State Forest	An area of about 843.1309 hectares described as part of lot 207 on FTY1885 (to be described as lot 1 on AP23883), for dedication as part of the existing Wrattens National Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Peachester State Forest	An area of about 657.509 hectares described as part of lot 313 on FTY1182 (to be described as lot 3 on AP23888), for dedication as part of the existing Glass House Mountains Conservation Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.

Squirrel Creek State Forest	An area of about 6461.858 hectares described as part of lot 343 on FTY525 (to be described as lot 344 on AP23882), for dedication as the new Squirrel Creek National Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Bellthorpe State Forest	An area of about 479.277 hectares, described as lot 572 on FTY1521 (to be described as lot 572 on AP23880), for dedication as part of the existing Bellthorpe National Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Beerburrum West State Forest	An area of about 227.7837 hectares described as part of lot 589 on FTY1876 excluding lot 100 on SP326158 and lots 101 and 102 on SP329108 (to be described as lot 4 on AP23657), for dedication as part of the existing Glass House Mountains National Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Beerburrum West State Forest	An area of about 891.1593 hectares described as parts of lot 589 on FTY1876 excluding lot 100 on SP326158 and lots 101 and 102 on SP329108 (to be described as lots 5 to 7 on AP23657), for dedication as part of the existing Glass House Mountains Conservation Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Deer Reserve State Forest	An area of about 99.8631 hectares described as part of lot 637 on AP23775 (to be described as lot 3 on AP23887), for dedication as part of the existing Deer Reserve Conservation Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Elgin Vale State Forest	An area of about 212.2387 hectares described as part of lot 673 on FTY1931 (to be described as lot 674 on AP23889), for dedication as part of the existing Wrattens National Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Luttons State Forest	An area of about 119.1279 hectares described as part of lot 766 on AP23774 (to be described as lot 2 on AP23886), for dedication as part of the existing Glass House Mountains Conservation Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Yabba State Forest	An area of about 576.2108 hectares described as part of lot 986 on FTY1720 excluding lot 986 on AP6339 (to be described as lot 1 on AP23884), for dedication as part of the existing Wrattens National Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Delaneys Creek State Forest	An area of about 289.4595 hectares described as lot 2563 on FTY725 (to be described as lot 2563 on AP23778), for dedication as the new Delaneys Creek Conservation Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Expedition (Limited Depth) National Park	An area of about 24.67 hectares described as part of lot 27 on NPW826 situated in the counties of Aberdeen, Tingarra and Westgrove (to be described as lots 1 to 3 on SP338905), 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 and Minister for Science and Innovation for submission to the Governor in Council.

Queensland currently has more than 14.88 million hectares of protected area, which is an area more than twice the size of Tasmania. We also have over three million hectares of state forests. The Miles government is committed to a well-managed protected area system that provides social, environmental and economic benefits to Queensland. Our government's record \$262.5 million commitment to invest in protected area expansion and management is not only delivering growth in our protected areas and supporting long-term conservation but also delivering important social and economic outcomes.

Over the past year alone we have acquitted over \$111 million to the total program, which includes the acquisition of 12 properties totalling more than half a million hectares. This also included funding from other sources including philanthropic donations. These properties will be added to the protected area estate to protect Queensland's unique biodiversity for future generations. These acquisitions will also result in local employment with new rangers to be engaged to deliver land management programs, local contractors standing to benefit from capital and minor works projects and tourism opportunities presented to communities and businesses by bringing more visitors to these regional areas.

Just last month we saw the dedication of two new national parks and additions to existing public protected areas throughout the state totalling over 59,000 hectares including, most notably, the creation of the Lakes National Park—over 43,200 hectares in area, north of Hughenden. Today, I bring to the House a number of proposals to further expand the protected area estate and protect critical habitat for our native species.

With responsibility for around 13 million hectares of terrestrial parks and forests, there is sometimes a need to progress revocation proposals that ultimately result in balanced outcomes for the Queensland public. Of the 14 revocation proposals to be debated in the House today, two are appropriate, sensible and necessary actions linked to balanced public interest outcomes. One involves a national park and the other a state forest. Ten are to deliver the latest tranche of our Labor government's commitment to transfer up to 20,000 hectares of state forest to protected area as part of the Native Timber Action Plan. This will afford these areas stronger legislative protections and enhanced management for crucial habitat for threatened species in South-East Queensland such as the greater glider and the iconic koala. The remaining two revocations bring to a close the conversion of Yurol and Ringtail state forests to protected area status, as part of the Yurol-Ringtail conservation project. For all revocations that propose to excise land from the estate, careful consideration was given to ensure that the proposals aligned with departmental policy and appropriate compensation was negotiated with proponents for the loss of conservation values.

The first proposal is the revocation of the entirety of Targinie State Forest, containing an area of approximately 543 hectares, to support the Gladstone State Development Area and this government's objective to support growth of a hydrogen export industry. The revocation of Targinie State Forest is necessary to establish a new multi-user infrastructure corridor that links the Gladstone State Development Area to Fisherman's Landing at the Port of Gladstone. The Coordinator-General identified Targinie State Forest as the ideal route to locate a hydrogen pipeline and infrastructure corridor due to its proximity to available land infrastructure networks and access to port facilities. The revocation is not expected to significantly impact the forestry estate as the forest is isolated, fragmented and already disturbed, with about a quarter of its area occupied by an oil shale mine and corridor easements.

Importantly, and in compensation of this revocation proposal, more than 1,400 hectares will be added to the protected area estate and provide significant conservation and management benefits to the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service managed estates. This compensation land on Curtis Island has far higher conservation value, largely undisturbed and connects to existing national park. This land adjoins Curtis Island National Park, Curtis Island Conservation Park, Graham Creek estuary in the 'Narrows' section of the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park, and the nationally important Port Curtis Wetland and forms part of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area.

Its inclusion in the national park estate will provide for the protection of its values and complement the management of the surrounding terrestrial and marine conservation areas by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. The protection of this land will directly benefit forest dwelling species that likely include the vulnerable powerful owl and the yellow-bellied glider. It will also assist in the protection of the adjacent wetlands with their resident threatened species including the endangered eastern curlew and the vulnerable dugong, beach stone-curlew, and green and flatback turtles.

The land is currently within the Curtis Island environmental management precinct area and on-ground management is conducted by QPWS. However, it is currently owned by the Coordinator-General. The addition of this land to the protected area estate will enable QPWS to manage fire, pest, recreation and cultural values more effectively with policies and legislation designed for this purpose. Consultation has occurred with all parties impacted by the proposed action and there were no objections to the proposal. The future usage of Targinie State Forest will be facilitated by the Coordinator-General.

This government will temporarily revoke an access track from Expedition (Limited Depth) National Park, containing an area of about 25 hectares, to facilitate lawful thoroughfare access to an adjoining property, Lonesome Holding, containing leases for resource activities. Lonesome Holding is 14,500 hectares of unallocated state land purchased in 2001 for its very high conservation value with the intention to dedicate and add to the national park. The revocation footprint aligns with an existing vehicle track and is not considered to present significant impacts upon the values of the national park as the vehicle track area is already disturbed and has existed for over 30 years. The revocation is considered necessary to allow access and track maintenance activities, including installation of erosion and sediment controls which do not align with national park management principles.

The government has reached a compensation agreement with the proponent which will result in the early relinquishment of about 3,617 hectares of resource tenements in Lonesome Holding, enabling these areas to be included in Expedition (Limited Depth) National Park. The agreement will also see the addition of the proponent's 4,387-hectare property, known as Kentucky, to the protected area estate in due course. These additions to the protected area estate include 1,429 hectares of endangered and of-concern regional ecosystems. The proponent has committed to identify additional areas that could be relinquished and converted to continue extending the national park when surface works are complete and on an ongoing basis. It is our government's intent to continue to add more of this important ecosystem to our protected area estate. This outcome is important as Lonesome Holding and Kentucky

are home to significant areas of high ecological values unique to the brigalow belt, including endangered and of concern regional ecosystems and habitat for protected fauna and flora. The addition of these areas to the national park will enhance their protection, providing support for threatened and endangered species such as the greater glider, northern spotted quoll and the powerful owl. The 25-hectare track will remain as state land managed by my department and re-dedicated as national park when the off-park petroleum activities are completed.

In 2019, the Palaszczuk government launched the Native Timber Action Plan which aimed to balance the preservation of Queensland's timber industry with the need to expand Queensland's protected area estate. Part of this plan was the commitment to end native forest logging in the South East Queensland Regional Plan area and the upgrade of up to 20,000 hectares of state forests in the South-East Queensland planning area to protected area by the end of 2024.

The upgrade of these areas to national park requires the revocation of the state forests so that the national park dedication can occur. These upgrades involved the planned phasing out of timber harvesting in high conservation areas. There is the proposed revocation of part of Beerburrum West State Forest and the proposed revocation of the entirety of Bellthorpe State Forest. The upgraded area of Bellthorpe State Forest will be dedicated as part of Bellthorpe National Park. Also part of the commitment to transition state forest to protected area is the proposed revocation of part of Deer Reserve State Forest, the proposed revocation of the entirety of Delaneys Creek State Forest, the proposed revocation of part of Elgin Vale State Forest, the proposed revocation of part of Jimna State Forest, the proposed revocation of part of Luttons State Forest, the proposed revocation of part of Peachester State Forest, the proposed revocation of part of Squirrel Creek State Forest and the proposed revocation of part of Yabba State Forest.

The final proposals before the House today relate to the completion of tenure upgrades for the Yurol-Ringtail conservation project. The proposed revocation of the entirety of Yurol State Forest, containing an area of about 479 hectares, and the entirety of Ringtail State Forest, containing about 889 hectares, will see these areas dedicated as part of Tewantin National Park.

We are delighted to bring to the House today these proposals. They are part of our government's commitment and track record in protecting areas of high ecological and cultural value in perpetuity for the benefit of all Queenslanders. We know that doing so will benefit all Queenslanders and the thousands of flora and fauna species that call these special areas home. I commend the motion to the House.