




Speech By
Hon. Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Protected Areas

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.59 am): Queensland is a biodiversity hotspot: 50 per cent of the species in this state can only be found here. Our government is committed to protecting them. It is why we are fast approaching 15 million hectares of protected areas. Just yesterday, the environment minister announced that over 350,000 hectares in the Lake Eyre Basin will be protected. That is an area bigger than Yosemite that will now become dedicated national park. This sort of protection would not have been possible if it were not for our government introducing critical vegetation management and land-clearing laws in 2018.

Until 2013, land-clearing rates were declining nationally largely on the back of work right here in Queensland. In fact, Australia overshot the greenhouse reductions promised under the Kyoto Protocol because of these protections. Protecting our natural assets, like national parks and sites of cultural heritage, means we can set ambitious targets for a greener future with opportunities for the next generation of Queenslanders.