



Speech By  
**Stephen Bennett**


**MEMBER FOR BURNETT**

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Record of Proceedings, 19 November 2025

**MOTION**

**Revocation and Suspension of Protected Areas**

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (3.57 pm): I rise to speak in support of the proposed minor revocation and tenure change affecting around 9.3 hectares of the Burrum Coast National Park about 19 kilometres south-east of Bundaberg. This small adjustment will allow formalised access to adjoining mining tenements, while maintaining the integrity of one of our region's most important and beautiful natural assets. The Burrum Coast National Park is a true local treasure, spanning the Kinkuna, Woodgate, Burrum River and Buxton sections. It protects an incredible range of ecosystems—from coastal dunes and wallum to paperbark swamps, forests and wetlands. It is home to an extraordinary diversity of wildlife, including migratory shorebirds, wallabies and a variety of rare plant species that thrive in its unique mix of coastal and freshwater environments.

The Kinkuna section, in particular, is something special. It is a rugged, unspoilt stretch of coastline where the bush meets the sea. With its rolling dunes, quiet campsites and untouched beauty, it is a favourite getaway for locals and visitors alike. Families have been camping, fishing and exploring in this area for generations. Kinkuna offers a simple, self-reliant camping experience that is increasingly rare these days. There are no facilities, just the satisfaction of being off the beaten track. It is a place we are all proud to share and protect.

For many of us who call the Wide Bay home, places like Kinkuna are part of our lifestyle and identity. They remind us of the importance of balance between people and nature. While I am at it, a shout-out to anyone who is planning on visiting Coonarr over the busy Christmas break. Be sure to take care of each other, drive to the conditions and abide by the road and beach rules so we all stay safe. This is such a special spot for so many people across the state, so let us enjoy it, protect it, but be sensible and look out for one another. Remember to take all your rubbish home so we can preserve this magical spot for generations to come.

The proposal before us relates to a small parcel on the park's boundary to formalise existing access to mining tenements on neighbouring state land. That access supports the long-standing Sunstate Sands operation at Coonarr Creek. Sunstate Sands is a local company producing high-purity silica sand for the glass, foundry and construction industries. Sunstate Sands has operated responsibly for many years, providing local jobs and contributing to the Bundaberg economy. The quality of their product is world-class and their work supports industries right across Queensland. Sunstate Sands operates under a rigorous environmental authority that requires consultation, monitoring and community complaint processes. In their permit applications they have also committed to meeting environmental conditions and buffer requirements, demonstrating their intent to engage with regulatory and community expectations.

Importantly, this proposal does not create any new mining within the national park. It simply formalises an existing access route, ensuring it is properly managed and subject to clear environmental conditions. This provides certainty for all parties—the park service, the community and the operator—

and helps avoid the impacts that can come from informal or unmanaged vehicle use. We know there have been some access challenges in this area, particularly during wet weather when road conditions deteriorate. At times visitors and trucks have shared the same unsealed roads which has led to some safety and maintenance concerns. By formalising access we can improve road standards, have safer access and travel for everyone and protect the surrounding environment from unnecessary wear and tear.

This is a sensible and balanced outcome. It supports local industry, provides proper oversight and continues to protect the environmental and recreational values that make the Burrum Coast and Kinkuna so special. I thank the minister and departmental officers for progressing this practical solution. With strong safeguards in place and continued cooperation between stakeholders, this change will deliver lasting benefits for our region.