

## Question on Notice

No. 823

Asked on Thursday, 15 June 2023

**MR T WATTS** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (HON L LINARD)—

### QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise if there has been any research conducted, or any plans to turn the 243 hectare bushland park ‘Redwood Park’ near Toowoomba into a National Park?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The expansion of Queensland’s protected area system is guided by *Queensland’s Protected Area Strategy 2020-2030* (the Strategy), a 10-year plan for supporting the growth, management and sustainability of national parks and other protected areas.

The Strategy focuses on protecting representative samples of the State’s biodiversity, with the greatest overall biodiversity conservation benefits realised by acquiring and protecting land containing ecosystems that are either not represented in the existing protected area system or those that are currently poorly represented.

Redwood Park is a reserve declared under the *Land Act 1994* and the Toowoomba Regional Council is the Trustee of the reserve. I note that Redwood Park has an existing network of shared walking/mountain biking trails and a picnic area, and is valued by the local community for both the natural environment and the recreational activities available.

Given Redwood Park’s reserve status and local government authority trusteeship arrangements provide a framework for environmental protection of the site’s significant biodiversity values, there are no current plans to transfer the Park into the national park estate.