



Speech By  
**Dr Christian Rowan**


**MEMBER FOR MOGGILL**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2017

**MOTION**

**Revocation of State Forest Areas**

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (11.59 am): The Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, the Hon. Dr Steven Miles, has nominated a proposal under section 26 of the Forestry Act 1959 requesting the Governor in Council to make a revocation by regulation of the setting apart and declaration as state forest of an area of Beerwah State Forest as described as lot 100 and containing an area of about 7.358 hectares. The Sunshine Coast Regional Council is seeking the area for public works, including a council depot, and for community—that is, rural fire brigade services. The state forest is in part a declared state plantation forest subject to a plantation licence. In 2007 the Sunshine Coast Regional Council identified the old Beerwah Forest Station as an appropriate site for its new council works depot by replacing its existing depot at Landsborough and commenced negotiations to acquire the site with Forest Products Queensland, the then owner of the station.

In 2010 Forest Products Queensland sold its interests in the station to HQPlantations. The Sunshine Coast Regional Council entered into a commercial arrangement with HQPlantations in 2011 to acquire the land for \$1,250,000, with an additional payment of \$200,000 to offset HQPlantations's relocation of its seed drying and extraction shed. In accordance with the relevant natural resource management policy, the Sunshine Coast Regional Council was eligible for a 50 per cent discount to address native title. The Sunshine Coast Regional Council holds an occupational permit for a works depot on the site. The permit is subject to a deed of variation that specifies that the permit termination will take effect the day before the revocation is made by the Governor in Council.

Following finalisation of compensation arrangements with the Sunshine Coast Regional Council, HQPlantations applied to surrender its interests in the station. On 20 August 2016 the then minister for agriculture and fisheries approved HQPlantations's partial surrender of its plantation licence. Section 26 of the Forestry Act 1959 stipulates that the setting apart and declaration of land as state forest may be revoked in whole or in part after a proposal tabled by the Governor in Council is passed by the Legislative Assembly of Queensland. It should be noted that the Sunshine Coast Regional Council via the Department of Natural Resources and Mines has paid the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing \$750,000 for the loss and reduction of the inherent natural, environmental, social and cultural values associated with the area being revoked as well as the loss of an asset to the state. The LNP will not be opposing the proposal under section 26 of the Forestry Act 1959 with respect to the proposed revocation.

Given the importance of rural fire brigades, I want to take this opportunity to recognise them one and all. Queensland's rural fire brigades are comprised of more than 1,400 and there are over 36,000 volunteers, including both firefighters and support members. There are also approximately 2,600 rural fire wardens who are an integral and highly valued part of the rural firefighting movement. Some 93 per cent of Queensland's geographical area is served by volunteer rural firefighters. I specifically want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Brookfield Rural Fire Brigade and its volunteers in my

electorate of Moggill. In addition to dealing with fires, it is an invaluable resource providing advice on bushfire preparedness, developing bushfire action plans, assisting with fire permits and educating the community about home fire safety.

It is the Liberal National Party that has led the way and shown leadership in the 55th Queensland Parliament by introducing supportive and ethical legislation with respect to workers compensation and rehabilitation to protect all firefighters, no matter what colour fire truck they drive. I want to acknowledge the member for Kawana, Jarrod Bleijie MP, for his outstanding work in this area and also with respect to domestic smoke alarms along with the member for Everton, Tim Mander MP.

Finally, I know that the environment minister has been somewhat focused on this partial revocation and a number of other recent revocations, but I think his real attention has been on the revocation of his own state seat of Mount Coot-tha by the Electoral Commission of Queensland. There is no doubt that Labor and its members always cut and run when it comes to standing on principle. This is a do-nothing Labor government failing on job creation, failing on infrastructure investment and failing on crocodile management. It is a government being held to ransom by extremist third-party agendas.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! I just point out to the member for Moggill that the words you are using must be relevant to the motion please.

**Dr ROWAN:** Thank you for your guidance, Madam Deputy Speaker. The LNP will not be opposing the proposal under section 26 of the Forestry Act 1959 requesting the Governor in Council to make a revocation by regulation of the setting apart and declaration of the relevant areas outlined today.