

# Groom rules out move to privatise Parks land

**NICK CLARK**

A 2016 Liberal Senate candidate has called for the privatisation of some of the state's Parks and Wildlife controlled land.

St Helens farmer John Tucker, 41, was speaking at the Liberal State Council after being elected Federal rural and regional delegate.

"I believe that we need to look at amalgamating Parks and Wildlife into the local council after we privatise some of their land assets," he said.

"This will be of benefit to local councils by increasing their rate base."

But Parks and Wildlife Minister Matthew Groom immedi-



**Matthew Groom rejected a bid to privatise some state land**

ately rejected the idea.

"Parks and Wildlife do an exceptional job of managing our wilderness reserves under an integrated and statewide system," Mr Groom said.

Mr Tucker, who runs a 10,500 ha farm, said he believed there needed to be better utilisation of state and privately owned land and water resources.

He said tourism could be a growth area as long as infra-

structure was established to handle the increase.

"Our councils need a bigger rate base to help pay for this infrastructure so this is why I think the state needs to look at amalgamating Parks and Wildlife and councils and rationalising their land asset base," Mr Tucker said.

He said he was a great believer in the State Government's vision to lift agricultural output to \$10.5 billion by 2050.

But more young people needed to be attracted into agricultural careers.

The council also heard a full and frank review of the Liberals' 2016 election campaign was in progress under former trade minister Andrew Robb.

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