



Queensland

Forestry and Nature Conservation Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2011

Explanatory Notes for SL 2011 No. 178

made under the

Forestry Act 1959

Nature Conservation Act 1992

General outline

Short title

*Forestry and Nature Conservation Legislation Amendment Regulation
(No. 2) 2011.*

Authorising law

Sections 25 and 27 of the *Forestry Act 1959* (FA)

Section 29, 33, 70C and 184 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA).

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The dedication and declaration of protected areas is a core component in achieving the conservation of nature (the objective of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*). This proposal is not considered to constitute significant subordinate legislation.

On average the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) will propose between 30-50 protected area declarations each year.

The primary reasons for such proposals are to advance the protection of representative samples of biological diversity across all Queensland ecosystems. Secondary reasons include protecting important cultural heritage values, wildlife corridors and landscape values.

The amendment relating to section 184 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* is consistent with the Queensland government commitment to the ongoing implementation of the South East Queensland Forests Agreement (SEQFA). A government policy decision was made in 2003 to allow the temporary continuation of beekeeping activities until 31 December 2024 on SEQFA lands that are to be transferred from forest reserve to national park or national park recovery.

Achievement of policy objectives

Protected areas are the appropriate tenure in which to achieve conservation security of public land in perpetuity. There is no reasonable tenure alternative to achieve similar conservation outcomes.

The dedication of protected area achieves conservation of nature through:

1. Providing permanent protection, to the greatest possible extent, for the area's natural and cultural values by excluding uses that are inconsistent with the management principles of the protected area; and
2. Subsequent management of the land, native wildlife, habitat and biodiversity values in a manner consistent with the management principles and approved management plans for the protected area; and
3. The cooperative involvement of Traditional Owners in protected area conservation where appropriate.

The amendment relating to section 184 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* allows for the temporary continuation of beekeeping activities until 31 December 2024 on five apiary site locations on SEQFA lands, once they become national park.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The amendment legislation is consistent with the objectives of the *Forestry Act 1959* and the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, that is the conservation of nature.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

The regulation is consistent with the policy objectives of other legislation. It provides for land dedication and declaration consistent with other State laws relating to State land use and allocation.

Benefits and costs of implementation

Protected areas provide conservation and ecosystem services which have indirect economic value and positive benefits to society. Protected areas also provide special places for recreation and tourism activities and are often places of important cultural and spiritual significance for Traditional Owners.

There are ongoing management costs associated with the management of protected areas undertaken by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. This includes active management such as prescribed burning, weed and feral animal control and the provision of visitor services and infrastructure.

There is current Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service Operational Policy in place for the management of apiary permits on the protected area estate. Management of beekeeping activities currently occurs in SEQFA national parks where beekeeping is allowed to continue until 31 December 2024. There will be minimal additional costs associated with implementation of these changes.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The regulation is consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

Consultation has been undertaken with the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (Mines), the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and the Queensland Office for Regulatory Efficiency.

Consultation has also occurred with the Queensland Beekeepers' Association, Queensland Parks and Wildlife and DERM - Forest Products to confirm apiary site numbers. All parties agreed with the proposals put forward to them.

The Queensland Office for Regulatory Efficiency advised that a Regulatory Assessment Statement is not required under Part 5 of the *Statutory Instruments Act 1992*.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Laid before the Legislative Assembly on . . .
- 2 The administering agency is the Department of Environment and Resource Management.

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