



Queensland

Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2012

Explanatory Notes for SL 2012 No. 177

made under the

Nature Conservation Act 1992

General outline

Short title

Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2012

Authorising law

Section 29 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*

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.

Protected areas are critical to conserving biodiversity and stabilising threatened species trends in Australia. Protected areas are also critical to economic and social wellbeing, delivering ecosystem services that cannot be reliably valued in dollar terms.

New tourism opportunities across regional and rural Queensland will be identified and protected areas will be selected to enhance recreational opportunities for local residents and interstate and international visitors.

Other objectives include improving management boundaries of existing protected areas to enable better fire, pest and weed control; building resilience to climate change; and conserving priority ecosystems and species and conserving significant natural landscapes.

New protected areas also offer increased opportunities for Indigenous people.

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.

This Subordinate Legislation is proposed to contain a proposal to dedicate as Wongaloo Conservation Park areas totalling about 1664.4974 hectares being unallocated State land described as:

- Lot 3 on E12453 (296.6350ha)
- Lot 550 on E12497 (20.2340ha)
- Lot 563 on E12497 (20.2340ha)
- Lot 6 on E124359 (455.4240ha)
- Lot 5 on EP148 (47.7380ha)

- Lot 73 on EP1850 (abt 16.5ha)
- Lot 62 on EP1914 (173.6000ha)
- Lot 16 on EP210 (30.4320ha)
- Lot 1 on EP738 (10.7080ha)
- Lot 2 on EP738 (6.0740ha)
- Lot 2 on EP827 (32.4250ha)
- Lot 1 on EP829 (96.0620ha)
- Lot 5 on RP702116 (154.4910ha)
- Lot 1 on RP702117 (75.2360ha)
- Lot 1 on RP742440 (27.3300ha)
- Lot 1 on RP743694 (45.1600ha)
- Lot 2 on RP743694 (42.7050ha)
- Lot 3 on RP743694 (2.0136ha)
- Lot 2 on SP109517 (96.5958ha)
- Lot 4 on USL44295 (abt 14.9ha)

This initial dedication of Wongaloo Conservation Park, located about 35 kilometres south-west of Townsville, will partially fulfil an agreement between the State and Federal Governments to purchase this aggregation of properties through the Australian Government's *Caring For Our Country* program. This agreement stated that the property was to be dedicated Conservation Park once purchased.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The amendment legislation is consistent with the objectives of 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.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The regulation is consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

Consultation has been undertaken with the Department of Natural Resources & Mines and the Resources and Economic Development Branch, Queensland Treasury regarding the proposed amendments to the protected areas. Consultation has also been undertaken with the Federal Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population & Communities as these properties were purchased with joint State and Federal funds.

The Wetlands and Grasslands Foundation have also been consulted as a financial contributor to the purchase of these properties.

All relevant parties agree with the dedication of Wongaloo Conservation Park.

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 Heritage Protection.

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