

Forestry and Other Legislation (Revocation of Forest Reserves) Amendment Regulation 2025

Explanatory notes for SL 2025 No. 144

made under the

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Forestry Act 1959

Nature Conservation Act 1992

Recreation Areas Management Act 2006

General Outline

Short title

Forestry and Other Legislation (Revocation of Forest Reserves) Amendment Regulation 2025

Authorising law

Section 580 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act)

Sections 25 and 97 of the *Forestry Act 1959* (Forestry Act)

Sections 29, 36A, 64, 70E and 175 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act)

Section 232 of the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006* (RAM Act)

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The primary objectives of the *Forestry and Other Legislation (Revocation of Forest Reserves) Amendment Regulation 2025* (Amendment Regulation) are to provide for:

- redescription of one Timber Reserve
- redescription of two State forests
- additions to ten State forests
- redescription of 20 forest reserves
- change the tenure of all remaining forest reserves (23) to allow the areas to be added to national park, conservation park or set apart and declared as part of State forest
- additions to 17 national parks
- redescription of one national park

- addition to one conservation park
- dedication of one new conservation park

The core aim of dedicating new or amending existing protected areas is to permanently preserve, to the greatest extent possible, the area's natural condition, to protect the area's cultural resources and values and provide for ecologically sustainable activities and ecotourism. The Amendment Regulation will redescribe one timber reserve, two State forests, 20 forest reserves and one national park to improve plan accuracy, revoke all remaining forest reserves (23) to allow the areas to be added to national park, conservation park or set apart and declared as State forest, make additions to ten State forests, 17 national parks and one conservation park and dedicate one new conservation park. The forest reserve areas have been assessed for their conservation values and pre-existing interests such as permits and leases, to determine the most appropriate tenure.

The proposal to change the tenure of all remaining 23 forest reserves to national park, conservation park or State forest is part of the long-term forest reserve transfer process in Queensland. In accordance with section 70E of the NC Act, the purpose of revoking the dedication of the forest reserves is to allow the forest reserves to become protected areas, or to be set apart and declared as part of State forest. This process is necessary due to the upcoming expiry of Part 4A Forest reserves of the NC Act on 31 December 2025, as per section 70R of the NC Act. To facilitate this process, the Amendment Regulation revokes and concurrently changes all of the remaining forest reserves listed in the *Nature Conservation (Forest Reserves) Regulation 2000* to national park, conservation park or State forest (as detailed in the next section); repeals the *Nature Conservation (Forest Reserves) Regulation 2000* which becomes redundant when the forest reserves are revoked; and makes consequential amendments to remove redundant references to forest reserves in other subordinate legislation administered by the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI).

Another objective of the Amendment Regulation is to provide for the continuation of the use of the land for beekeeping on nine existing apiary sites in three forest reserve areas that are being dedicated as national park. Because beekeeping is inconsistent with the management principles for national parks unless permitted under section 36A of the NC Act, these apiary areas and the corresponding number of existing apiary sites need to be prescribed in Schedule 6 of the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2024* to allow the activity to continue when the areas are dedicated as national park.

This Amendment Regulation also includes minor amendments, such as updating of the plans that define the boundaries of State forests or protected areas using contemporary survey and mapping technology. Reasons for these updates include correcting area calculation errors, boundary consolidation following tenure actions and updating plan information (including updating area calculations where necessary to provide a more accurate representation of the area without changing the boundaries on-ground) to improve clarity, accuracy and transparency for the protected area and forest estate reporting system. Correcting administrative errors and amending descriptions will meet description requirements under the *Land Act 1994*.

Achievement of policy objectives

To achieve its objective, the Amendment Regulation:

1. amends Schedule 1: Timber reserves of the *Forestry Regulation 2024* to:
 - a. redescribe the entirety of Callide Timber Reserve as lot 17 on SP346688, containing an area of 9,600.47 hectares (a decrease of about 32.8406 hectares), about 83 kilometres south-west of Gladstone. The redescription allows for a new survey plan that uses contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards.
2. amends Schedule: State forests of the *Forestry (State Forests) Regulation 1987* to:
 - a. set apart and declare the entirety of Connors Forest Reserve, to be described as lot 46 on AP23975, containing an area of about 728.4 hectares, as part of Kelvin State Forest, about 49 kilometres south of Mackay. The addition to State forest will enable protection of threatened species habitat while allowing for multiple uses including grazing to continue;
 - b. redescribe the entirety of Danbulla State Forest 2 as lots 9, 15 and 17 on AP23904 containing a total area of about 32.78 hectares, (an increase of about 0.56 hectares), using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards, about 38 kilometres south-west of Cairns; and subsequently set apart and declare the entirety of Danbulla West Forest Reserve, to be described as lot 16 on AP23904, containing an area of about 0.34 hectares, as part of Danbulla State Forest 2. The area forms part of an existing track required for State forest and State plantation forest access;
 - c. set apart and declare parts of Kuranda West Forest Reserve, to be described as lots 1, 2, and 4 to 7 on AP23983, containing a total area of about 2,312.7 hectares, as part of Kuranda State Forest, about 35 kilometres north-west of Cairns. The change of tenure will facilitate the continuation of multiple uses including grazing and recreation;
 - d. redescribe the entirety of Danbulla State Forest 1 as lots 2, 7, and 8 on AP23904, containing a total area of about 2,978.53 hectares (an increase of about 7.53 hectares), using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards, about 34 kilometres south-west of Cairns; and subsequently set apart and declare part of Danbulla South Forest Reserve, to be described as lot 5 on AP23904, containing an area of about 22.8 hectares, as part of Danbulla State Forest 1. The area contains a vehicle track required for State forest and State plantation forest access;
 - e. set apart and declare parts of Baldy Mountain Forest Reserve, to be described as lots 3 to 10 on AP23974, containing a total area of about 2,393.56 hectares, as part of Herberton Range State Forest, about 2 kilometres west of Atherton. The tenure change will facilitate the continuation of existing grazing interests and recreational use including mountain bike activities;
 - f. set apart and declare the entirety of Mount Binga Forest Reserve, to be described as lot 1 on AP23985, containing an area of about 1.3 hectares, as part of Mount Binga State Forest, about 55 kilometres north of Toowoomba. The State forest tenure will facilitate the continuation of existing recreation and educational activities;
 - g. set apart and declare parts of Mount Stanley Forest Reserve 1, to be described as lots 1, 3, 5 and 6 on AP23987, containing a total area of about 1,668.49 hectares,

- as part of Mount Stanley State Forest 1, about 41 kilometres south-west of Gympie. The tenure change accommodates existing grazing interests;
- h. set apart and declare part of Alcock Forest Reserve, to be described as lot 1 on AP23973, containing an area of about 0.5 hectares, as part of Ravenshoe State Forest 3, about 44 kilometres south-west of Innisfail. The tenure change will facilitate the continuation of an existing lease that is incompatible with protected area management principles;
 - i. set apart and declare parts of Dinden West Forest Reserve, to be described as lots 1 and 3 AP23978, containing a total area of about 941.99 hectares, as part of Dinden State Forest, about 23 kilometres west of Cairns. The tenure change will facilitate the continuation of existing grazing interests and recreational use including mountain bike activities;
 - j. set apart and declare parts of Crediton Forest Reserve, to be described as lots 2 and 4 on AP23976, containing a total area of about 2,397.98 hectares, as part of Crediton State Forest, about 70 kilometres west of Mackay. The tenure change will facilitate the continuation of existing grazing interests while protecting the area's conservation values.
3. amends Schedule: Forest reserves of the *Nature Conservation (Forest Reserves) Regulation 2000* to:
- a. redescribe the entirety of Alcock Forest Reserve as lots 1 and 3 to 5 on AP23973, containing a total area of about 3.4 hectares, using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards, about 44 kilometres south-west of Innisfail; and subsequently set apart and declare part of the forest reserve as part of Ravenshoe State Forest 3 and revoke the balance of the forest reserve to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Tully Gorge National Park;
 - b. redescribe the entirety of Baldy Mountain Forest Reserve as lots 1 to 10 on AP23974, containing a total area of about 7,116.73 hectares (an increase of about 17.4223 hectares), using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards, about 2 kilometres west of Atherton; and subsequently set apart and declare parts of the forest reserve as part of Herberton Range State Forest and revoke the balance of the forest reserve to allow parts of the area to be dedicated as part of Herberton Range National Park;
 - c. redescribe the entirety of Connors Forest Reserve as lot 46 on AP23975, containing an area of about 728.4 hectares, using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards, about 49 kilometres south of Mackay; and subsequently set apart and declare the entirety of the forest reserve as part of Kelvin State Forest;
 - d. redescribe the entirety of Crediton Forest Reserve as lots 1 to 8 on AP23976, containing a total area of about 12,816.86 hectares (an increase of about 3.86 hectares), using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards, about 70 kilometres west of Mackay; and subsequently set apart and declare parts of the forest reserve as part of Crediton State Forest and revoke the balance of the forest reserve to allow parts to be dedicated as part of Eungella National Park, Homevale National Park and as the new Eungella Conservation Park;
 - e. redescribe the entirety of Danbulla South Forest Reserve as lots 3 to 6 on AP23904, containing a total area of about 767.94 hectares (a decrease of about 2.24 hectares), using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards, about 34 kilometres south-west of Cairns; and subsequently set apart and declare part of the forest reserve as part of Danbulla State Forest 1 and revoke the balance

- of the forest reserve to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Danbulla National Park;
- f. redescribe the entirety of Danbulla South Forest Reserve 2 as lots 10 to 14 on AP23904, containing a total area of about 43.23 hectares (a decrease of about 6.17 hectares), using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards, about 34 kilometres south-west of Cairns; and subsequently revoke the entirety of the forest reserve to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Danbulla National Park;
 - g. redescribe the entirety of Danbulla West Forest Reserve as lot 16 on AP23904, containing an area of about 0.34 hectares (an increase of about 0.0048 hectares), using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards, about 38 kilometres south-west of Cairns; and subsequently set apart and declare the entirety of the forest reserve as part of Danbulla State Forest 2;
 - h. redescribe the entirety of Dinden West Forest Reserve as lots 1 to 4 on AP23978, containing a total area of about 3,963.61 hectares (a decrease of about 331.39 hectares), using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards, about 23 kilometres west of Cairns; and subsequently set apart and declare parts of the forest reserve as part of Dinden State Forest and revoke the balance of the forest reserve to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Dinden National Park;
 - i. redescribe the entirety of Elgin Vale Forest Reserve as lot 1 on AP23979, containing an area of about 2,127.1 hectares (an increase of about 29.1 hectares), using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards, about 139 kilometres north-west of Brisbane; and subsequently revoke the entirety of the forest reserve, to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Wrattens National Park;
 - j. redescribe the entirety of Gadgarra Forest Reserve as lot 2 on AP23980, containing an area of about 1 hectare, using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards, about 40 kilometres south of Cairns; and subsequently revoke the entirety of the forest reserve to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Gadgarra National Park;
 - k. redescribe the entirety of Japoon Forest Reserve as lots 1 and 3 on AP23981, containing a total area of about 2.7 hectares, using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards, about 15 kilometres south-west of Innisfail; and subsequently revoke the entirety of the forest reserve to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Japoon National Park;
 - l. redescribe the entirety of Koombooloomba South Forest Reserve as lots 1 to 5 on AP23982, containing a total area of about 3,031.33 hectares (an increase of about 12.33 hectares), using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards, about 40 kilometres south-west of Innisfail; and subsequently revoke the entirety of the forest reserve to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Koombooloomba National Park;
 - m. redescribe the entirety of Kuranda West Forest Reserve as lots 1 to 7 on AP23983, containing a total area of about 2,422.1 hectares (an increase of about 8.6 hectares), using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards, about 35 kilometres north-west of Cairns; and subsequently, set apart and declare parts of the forest reserve as part of Kuranda State Forest and revoke the balance of the forest reserve to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Kuranda National Park;

- n. redescribe the entirety of Little Mulgrave Forest Reserve as lot 2 on AP23984, containing an area of about 1 hectare, using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards, about 22 kilometres south of Cairns; and subsequently revoke the entirety of the forest reserve, to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Little Mulgrave National Park;
 - o. revoke the entirety of Malbon Thompson Forest Reserve, to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Malbon Thompson Range National Park;
 - p. revoke the entirety of Mapleton Forest Reserve, to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Mapleton Conservation Park;
 - q. revoke the entirety of Maroochy Forest Reserve 2, to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Mapleton Conservation Park;
 - r. redescribe the entirety of Mount Binga Forest Reserve as lot 1 on AP23985, containing an area of about 1.3 hectares, using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards, about 55 kilometres north of Toowoomba; and subsequently set apart and declare the entirety of the forest reserve as part of Mount Binga State Forest;
 - s. redescribe the entirety of Mount Fisher Forest Reserve as lot 1 on AP23986, containing an area of about 0.8 hectares, using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards, about 51 kilometres west of Innisfail; and subsequently revoke the entirety of the forest reserve to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Maalan National Park;
 - t. redescribe the entirety of Mount Stanley Forest Reserve 1 as lots 1 to 9 on AP23987, containing a total area of about 3,399.38 hectares (an increase of about 4.38 hectares), using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards, about 41 kilometres south-west of Gympie; and subsequently set apart and declare parts of the forest reserve as part of Mount Stanley State Forest 1 and revoke the balance of the forest reserve to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Wrattens National Park;
 - u. redescribe the entirety of Ravenshoe Forest Reserve 1 as lots 1 to 3 on AP23988, containing a total area of about 2,201.6767 hectares (a decrease of about 39.3233 hectares), using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards, about 60 kilometres west of Innisfail; and subsequently revoke the entirety of the forest reserve to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Tully Falls National Park;
 - v. redescribe the entirety of Tam O'Shanter Forest Reserve as lots 1 and 2 on AP23989, containing a total area of about 2 hectares, using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards, about 40 kilometres south of Cairns; and subsequently revoke the entirety of the forest reserve to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Djiru National Park;
 - w. redescribe the entirety of Tully Falls Forest Reserve as lot 1 on AP23990, containing an area of about 2 hectares, using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards, about 60 kilometres west of Innisfail; and subsequently revoke the entirety of the forest reserve to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Tully Falls National Park.
4. amends Schedule 2: National parks of the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Regulation 1994* to:
- a. dedicate an area described as lot 5 on SP239340, containing an area of 1,401.2 hectares, as part of Curtis Island National Park, about 10 kilometres north of Gladstone. The area contains a diverse range of eucalypt forest and woodlands,

including significant areas of endangered and of concern regional ecosystems. Species of conservation significance are known to occur in the nearby wetlands and tidal areas including the beach stone curlew, eastern curlew and Australian snubfin dolphin;

- b. redescribe the entirety of Danbulla National Park as lot 1 on AP23904, containing an area of about 11,438.14 hectares (a decrease of about 14.3 hectares), using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards, about 34 kilometres south-west of Cairns; and subsequently dedicate the revoked parts of Danbulla South Forest Reserve, to be described as lots 3, 4 and 6 on AP23904, containing a total area of about 745.14 hectares, as part of Danbulla National Park; and dedicate the entirety of the revoked Danbulla South Forest Reserve 2, to be described as lots 10 to 14 on AP23904, containing a total area of about 43.23 hectares, as part of Danbulla National Park. These areas contain endangered regional ecosystems and provide habitat for endangered species such as the southern cassowary (southern population) and koala;
- c. dedicate the revoked parts of Dinden West Forest Reserve, to be described as lots 2 and 4 on AP23978, containing a total area of about 3,021.62 hectares, as part of Dinden National Park, about 23 kilometres west of Cairns. These areas contain habitat for species including the vulnerable northern greater glider and endangered spotted-tailed quoll (northern subspecies);
- d. dedicate the entirety of the revoked Tam O'Shanter Forest Reserve, to be described as lots 1 and 2 on AP23989, containing a total area of about 2 hectares, as part of Djiru National Park, about 40 kilometres south of Cairns. The addition of these areas will support national park management;
- e. dedicate the revoked parts of Crediton Forest Reserve, to be described as lots 1, 3, 5 and 6 on AP23976, containing a total area of about 9,136.62 hectares, as part of Eungella National Park, about 66 kilometres west of Mackay. The areas contain suitable habitat for threatened species including the tusked frog, glossy black-cockatoo and Eungella honeyeater;
- f. dedicate the entirety of the revoked Gadgarra Forest Reserve, to be described as lot 2 on AP23980, containing an area of about 1 hectare, as part of Gadgarra National Park, about 40 kilometres south of Cairns. The addition of this lot improves management effectiveness and consolidates the national park boundary;
- g. dedicate the revoked parts of Baldy Mountain Forest Reserve, to be described as lots 1 and 2 on AP23974, containing a total area of about 4,723.17 hectares, as part of Herberton Range National Park, about 2 kilometres west of Atherton. The additions have known presence of the endangered koala, suitable habitat for several threatened species including the southern cassowary (southern population), waterfall frog and northern greater glider, and contain regional ecosystems with 'endangered' biodiversity status;
- h. dedicate the revoked part of Crediton Forest Reserve, to be described as lot 8 on AP23976, containing an area of about 290.26 hectares, as part of Homevale National Park, about 70 kilometres west of Mackay. Dedication of the area provides protection for 'of concern' regional ecosystems and suitable habitat for threatened flora and fauna including the Eungella honeyeater and granite nightshade;
- i. dedicate the entirety of the revoked Japoon Forest Reserve, to be described as lots 1 and 3 on AP23981, containing a total area of about 2.7 hectares, as part of Japoon National Park, about 40 kilometres south-west of Innisfail. The additions

- provide management benefits for the national park and allow greater protection of an ‘endangered’ regional ecosystem;
- j. dedicate the entirety of the revoked Koombooloomba South Forest Reserve, to be described as lots 1 to 5 on AP23982, containing a total area of about 3,031.33 hectares, as part of Koombooloomba National Park, about 40 kilometres south-west of Innisfail. Dedication of the areas will provide protection of ‘endangered’ and ‘of concern’ regional ecosystems and habitat for threatened species including the spotted-tail quoll (northern subspecies), waterfall frog and northern yellow-bellied glider;
 - k. dedicate the revoked part of Kuranda West Forest Reserve, to be described as lot 3 on AP23983, containing a total area of about 109.4 hectares, as part of Kuranda National Park, about 35 kilometres north-west of Cairns. The areas contain important melaleuca and eucalypt species in ‘endangered’ regional ecosystems and supports habitat for the vulnerable Macleay’s fig-parrot and masked owl (northern subspecies);
 - l. dedicate the entirety of the revoked Little Mulgrave Forest Reserve, to be described as lot 2 on AP23984, containing an area of about 1 hectare, as part of Little Mulgrave National Park, about 22 kilometres south of Cairns. Addition of the parcel will assist management and improves protection of habitat for the masked owl (northern subspecies) and spectacled flying fox;
 - m. dedicate the entirety of the revoked Mount Fisher Forest Reserve, to be described as lot 1 on AP23986, containing an area of about 0.8 hectares, as part of Maalan National Park, about 51 kilometres west of Innisfail. The addition of this parcel supports national park management and protection of an ‘endangered’ regional ecosystem;
 - n. dedicate the entirety of the revoked Malbon Thompson Forest Reserve, described as lot 1 on AP23595, containing an area of about 1.7 hectares, as part of Malbon Thompson Range National Park, about 22 kilometres south-east of Cairns. The addition of this parcel provides management benefits and protection of habitat for the endangered southern cassowary (southern population);
 - o. dedicate the entirety of the revoked Ravenshoe Forest Reserve 1, to be described as lots 1 to 3 on AP23988, containing an area of about 2,201.6767 hectares; and dedicate the entirety of the revoked Tully Falls Forest Reserve, to be described as lot 1 on AP23990, containing an area of about 2 hectares, as part of Tully Falls National Park, about 60 kilometres west of Innisfail. The areas contain a mosaic of complex vegetation types across multiple regional ecosystems and habitat for threatened species including the spotted-tailed quoll (northern subspecies) and waterfall frog;
 - p. dedicate the revoked parts of Alcock Forest Reserve, to be described as lots 3 to 5 on AP23973, containing a total area of about 2.9 hectares, as part of Tully Gorge National Park, about 44 kilometres south-west of Innisfail. The additions provide management benefits and provide protection for habitat for the vulnerable lace-eyed treefrog;
 - q. dedicate the entirety of the revoked Elgin Vale Forest Reserve, to be described as lot 1 on AP23979, containing an area of about 2,127.1 hectares; and dedicate the entirety of the revoked Mount Stanley Forest Reserve 1, to be described as lots 2, 4 and 7 to 9 on AP23987, containing an area of about 1,730.89 hectares, as part of Wrattens National Park, about 41 kilometres south-west of Gympie. The additions provide connectivity to Wrattens National Park and contain habitat for threatened

species including the koala, black-breasted button-quail and squatter pigeon (southern subspecies).

5. amends Schedule 3: Conservation parks of the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Regulation 1994* to:
 - a. dedicate the revoked part of Crediton Forest Reserve, to be described as lot 7 on AP23976, containing an area of about 992 hectares, as the new Eungella Conservation Park, about 60 kilometres west of Mackay. The area contains remnant and non-remnant regional ecosystems and provides habitat for threatened species such as the glossy black-cockatoo and tusked frog. The conservation park will enable protection of natural values while allowing for recreational activities compatible with conservation park tenure;
 - b. dedicate the entirety of the revoked Mapleton Forest Reserve, described as lots 1 to 7 on AP19232, containing an area of about 127.0088 hectares; and dedicate the entirety of the revoked Maroochy Forest Reserve 2, described as lot 1 on AP19224, containing an area of about 1.38 hectares, as part of Mapleton Conservation Park, about 17 kilometres north-west of Maroochydore. The addition of these areas will support existing community uses compatible with conservation park tenure.
6. amends Schedule 6: Apiary areas and maximum apiary sites of the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2024* to prescribe:
 - a. the part of Baldy Mountain Forest Reserve within lot 1 on AP23974 as an apiary area in Herberton Range National Park with two apiary sites;
 - b. the part of Dinden West Forest Reserve within lot 2 on AP23978 as an apiary area in Dinden National Park with one apiary site;
 - c. the part of Elgin Vale Forest Reserve within lot 1 on AP23979 as an apiary area in Wrattens National Park with six apiary sites.
7. amends the following regulations to remove references to forest reserves that will become redundant upon the repeal of the *Nature Conservation (Forest Reserves) Regulation 2000*, and expiry of Part 4A of the NC Act:
 - a. *Environmental Protection Regulation 2019* – Schedule 19 Dictionary
 - b. *Forestry Regulation 2024* – Schedule 7 Dictionary
 - c. *Nature Conservation (Plants) Regulation 2020* – Schedule 5 Dictionary
 - d. *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2024* – Chapter 8, Part 2 Waivers
 - e. *Recreation Areas Management Regulation 2024* – Part 9, Division 2 Waivers
8. repeals the entirety of the *Nature Conservation (Forest Reserves) Regulation 2000*.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The Amendment Regulation is consistent with the objectives of the EP Act, the Forestry Act, the NC Act and the RAM Act, namely:

- the Governor in Council may make regulations under the EP Act, the Forestry Act, the NC Act and the RAM Act;

- the Governor in Council may, by regulation, set apart and declare as a State forest any land that is, or is part of, a forest reserve;
- section 36A of the NC Act enables the Minister to recommend to the Governor in Council the making of a regulation prescribing an apiary area in a national park if satisfied, under subsection (3)(f), that beekeeping activities are being lawfully carried out or are permitted on the area;
- the Governor in Council may, by regulation, assign a name to a protected area;
- the revocation of forest reserves may occur for dedication to a protected area if the chief executive has reviewed the reserve and after a notice of the proposed designation is published and any feedback is considered;
- the dedication and declaration of areas representative of the biological diversity, natural features and wilderness of the State as protected areas.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

The Amendment Regulation is not inconsistent with the policy objectives of other legislation.

In relation to the amendments prescribing apiary areas in national parks, the *Biosecurity Act 2014* includes a number of requirements in relation to the keeping and movement of bees, but the provisions relate to separate matters and there is no inconsistency.

Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives

In relation to the amendments prescribing apiary areas in national parks, there are no alternative ways of achieving the policy objectives. Section 36A of the NC Act specifically provides for the matters in the Amendment Regulation to be prescribed in regulation.

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.

Each area of land being added to the protected area estate was transferred for conservation and/or boundary management purposes. As encumbrances have now been resolved, transitioning this land to protected area tenure will formalise tenure for the land to ensure that the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships within DETSI can manage it as a protected area in accordance with the NC Act for the benefit of the environment and community.

The updating of plans allows the resolution of boundary and area issues and improves clarity, accuracy and transparency of protected areas.

Implementing the Amendment Regulation is in the public interest, is not considered to constitute significant subordinate legislation and will have negligible costs.

In accordance with *The Queensland Government Better Regulation Policy*, an Impact Analysis Statement was prepared in relation to the regulatory proposals. It was determined that the proposals are minor or machinery in nature and do not require regulatory impact analysis.

Costs relating to DETSI's administration and ongoing management of associated areas are met through existing annual budget allocations.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The Amendment Regulation has been drafted with regard to, and is consistent with, the fundamental legislative principles as defined in sections 4(3) and (5) of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*.

In relation to the amendments prescribing apiary areas in national parks, the legislation does not affect the rights and liberties of individuals. The use of subordinate legislation as opposed to primary legislation is specifically provided for in section 36A of the NC Act.

Consultation

The Office of Best Practice Regulation was notified of the proposals.

HQPlantations Pty Ltd was consulted concerning its access to and from parts of State forest areas that are affected by the Amendment Regulation. HQPlantations offered no objections to the proposals and collaborated with DETSI and the Department of Primary Industries to maintain access to plantation licence areas.

Where other third-party interests were present over land areas affected by the Amendment Regulation, DETSI has corresponded with relevant stakeholders regarding relevant changes to ensure interests such as grazing can be authorised or permitted appropriately upon any tenure changes. In accordance with the relevant legislation, interests will be able to continue post tenure change if required.

In accordance with section 70K of the NC Act, public notification of the proposed transfer of the forest reserves was notified on DETSI's website, with comments invited to be received within 35 days, between 12 August 2025 and 16 September 2025. The consultation also sought views in consideration of the *Human Rights Act 2019*, including Aboriginal peoples' and Torres Strait Islander peoples' cultural rights. During the consultation period, one enquiry were received from a third party, but there were no queries or comments that related to human rights, and DETSI progressed the proposals accordingly.

In relation to the amendments prescribing three apiary areas and nine apiary sites in Schedule 6 of the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2024*, consultation did not occur because there are no active permits for the apiary sites; and the amendments will simply provide for the continuation of the use of these areas for beekeeping on the existing apiary sites when they are dedicated as national park.

No public consultation was required on the repeal of the *Nature Conservation (Forest Reserves) Regulation 2000*, or amendments to remove redundant references to forest reserves in the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2019*, the *Forestry Regulation 2024*, the *Nature*

Conservation (Plants) Regulation 2020, the Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2024 and the Recreation Areas Management Regulation 2024, as the amendments are consequential and machinery in nature.

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