

Nature Conservation Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2025

Explanatory notes for SL 2025 No. 145

made under the

Nature Conservation Act 1992

General Outline

Short title

Nature Conservation Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2025

Authorising law

Sections 29, 33, 40, 64 and 175 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act).

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The objectives of the *Nature Conservation Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2025* (Amendment Regulation) are to:

- omit Lawn Hill (Arthur Creek) Resources Reserve, Lawn Hill (Lilydale) Resources Reserve, Lawn Hill (Littles Range) Resources Reserve, and Lawn Hill (Widdallion) Resources Reserve from Schedule 2: Trustees of resources reserves, Part 1 Resources reserves placed under joint management of joint trustee, of the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2024*;
- dedicate and name seven parcels of unallocated State land as Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park and subsequently redescribe Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park in Schedule 2 National parks, of the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Regulation 1994*; and
- dedicate and name part of Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park as Boodjamulla National Park (Aboriginal Land) and subsequently redescribe Boodjamulla National Park (Aboriginal Land) in Schedule 3B National parks (Aboriginal land), of the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Regulation 1994*.

The reason for the Amendment Regulation is to deliver on commitments to Waanyi Native Title Aboriginal Corporation Registered Native Title Body Corporate (Waanyi PBC) in the

Proposed Boodjamulla National Park (Aboriginal Land) Indigenous Land Use Agreement (the ILUA) (QI2023/003). The ILUA was signed by the Waanyi PBC and the State of Queensland in June 2023. It commits to resolve Waanyi people's *Aboriginal Land Act 1991* claim over Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park and includes the transfer of nine Lawn Hill resources reserves to Waanyi PBC over three tranches.

Tranche one, completed in June 2023, dedicated Boodjamulla National Park (Aboriginal land) at Lawn Hill gorge and the southern part of the national park, including Riversleigh World Heritage Area. Part of Tranche two is the subject of this Amendment Regulation and the remainder of tranche two and tranche three will be actioned as part of future regulatory amendment processes.

The Amendment Regulation proposes to dedicate an area of Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park as Boodjamulla National Park (Aboriginal Land) (Lot 21 on SP353699). This is proposed to be done using section 40 of the NC Act to ensure the validity of any 'Subsequent Perpetual Leases' as defined in the ILUA.

It also proposes to dedicate new areas of unallocated State land as Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park, including the former Lawn Hill (Stockyard Creek) Resource Reserve (Lot 7 on SP347085), the former Lawn Hill (Arthur Creek) Resources Reserve (lot 6, and 61-63 on SP349317), and parts of the former Lawn Hill (Littles Range) Resources Reserve (lots 94 and 95 on SP347088). Dedicating these areas as Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park is an interim tenure step that supports ILUA commitments to eventually dedicate these areas as national park (Aboriginal land) under section 40 of the NC Act.

This Amendment Regulation also proposes to remove outdated references to trustee arrangements for four former Lawn Hill Resources Reserves in the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2024*.

There was a discrepancy in how the Lawn Hill Resources Reserves were originally dedicated, which was resolved in September 2024. The titles were then corrected from resource reserves to Reserves for Departmental and Official Purposes (D&OP Reserves), prior to their revocation to unallocated State land.

However, under Schedule 2, Part 1 Resources reserves placed under joint management of joint trustees of the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2024*, the following areas are still listed, and are now required to be removed:

- Lawn Hill (Arthur Creek) Resources Reserve;
- Lawn Hill (Lilydale) Resources Reserve;
- Lawn Hill (Littles Range) Resources Reserve; and
- Lawn Hill (Widdallion) Resources Reserve.

The Amendment Regulation will facilitate the ILUA commitments to dedicate national park, national park (Aboriginal land) and title corrections by omitting the remaining references to the Lawn Hill Resource Reserves from the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2024*. Additionally, dedicating new or amending existing protected areas permanently preserves, 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 tourism, including through the involvement of Aboriginal people.

Achievement of policy objectives

To achieve its objective, the Amendment Regulation amends:

1. Schedule 2: Trustees of resources reserves, Part 1 Resources reserves placed under joint management of joint trustees of the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2024* to:
 - a. omit Lawn Hill (Arthur Creek) Resources Reserve, Lawn Hill (Lilydale) Resources Reserve, Lawn Hill (Littles Range) Resources Reserve, and Lawn Hill (Widdallion) Resources Reserve.
2. Schedule 2: National parks of the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Regulation 1994* to:
 - a. dedicate and name seven unallocated State land parcels as Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park:
 - i. Lots 94 and 95 on SP347088, lots 6, and 61-63 on SP349317, and lot 7 on SP347085, containing an area of 63,968.52 hectares, as Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park.
3. Schedule 3B: National parks (Aboriginal land) of the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Regulation 1994* to:
 - a. dedicate and rename part of Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park as Boodjamulla National Park (Aboriginal Land):
 - i. Lot 21 on SP353699, containing an area of 167,400 hectares.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The Amendment Regulation is consistent with the objectives of the NC Act, namely:

- the dedication and declaration of areas representative of the biological diversity, natural features and wilderness of the State as protected areas;
- the recognition of the interest of Aboriginal People in the protected areas, landscapes, native flora and wildlife;
- to ensure the conservation of nature while allowing for public access, continued third party tourism, Indigenous involvement, community use and appropriate commercial use of protected areas; and
- the Governor in Council may make regulations under the NC Act.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

The Amendment Regulation is not inconsistent with any other legislation.

Benefits and costs of implementation

The benefit of the Amendment Regulation is that it will enable cooperative management of the national park between the Aboriginal Traditional Owners, Aboriginal people particularly concerned with the land, and the Queensland Government. The action facilitates an opportunity for Traditional Owners to explore economic sustainability through expansion of local commercial recreation and ecotourism ventures.

Implementing the Amendment Regulation will result in some additional costs to the Queensland Government. The dedication of the national park (Aboriginal land) will increase protected area management costs. Funding for this purpose has been allocated by the Queensland Government to the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI).

In accordance with *The Queensland Government Better Regulation Policy*, a Summary Impact Analysis Statement was prepared in relation to the regulatory proposal identifying the amendment as ‘minor and machinery in nature’. No further regulatory impact analysis is required.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The Amendment Regulation is consistent with fundamental legislative principles. It complies with relevant requirements of section 4 of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*.

Consultation

The State has consulted extensively with the Waanyi PBC, the Native Title Holders of this land as well as the company providing their independent legal advice.

The Waanyi PBC support progress of the Amendment Regulation as it is essential for the land to be transferred as a combination of Aboriginal freehold land and national park (Aboriginal land) in accordance with the ILUA commitments.

A public notice was published on the DETSI’s website on 15 August 2025 regarding consultation on the proposed amendment and seeking views in consideration of the *Human Rights Act 2019*, including Aboriginal peoples’ and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ cultural rights. Nil written responses were received in the 30-day consultation period ending 14 September 2025.

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

All parties consulted support the amendments. No further changes to the Amendment Regulation were required as a result of the consultation.