

~~which replaces various narrow, issues based matters to provide a single expression of all the state's interests in planning and development. The amendments reverse the current relationship between the State Planning Policy and regional plans so that the State Planning Policy prevails over regional plans to the extent of any inconsistency.~~

~~The bill provides for the continued operation of several existing development control plans which ensure development can continue to occur easily and essential infrastructure is adequately provided to these communities. The amendments allow the infrastructure agreements put in place by these development control plans to continue to establish the basis for significant ongoing investment in some of the state's fastest growing new communities into the future. Finally, a number of minor and technical amendments, fully detailed in the explanatory notes, clarify and simplify existing local government policy.~~

~~In conclusion, the bill builds on the comprehensive reform that began with the introduction of the Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Bill in September last year. I said then that this would be an ongoing process and that a priority of the government is to properly empower local councils and restore the relationship between the state and local governments. In a year of delivery for local governments, this bill is another milestone on the road to empowerment of local communities and the local governments that represent them. But it is certainly not the end of the road. It is just one of the many ways that the government is ensuring that local governments have the authority and capacity to contribute to the state's growth and economic success. It is with great satisfaction that I introduce the Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013. I commend the bill to the House.~~

### ~~First Reading~~

~~**Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (12.25 pm): I move~~

~~That the bill be now read a first time.~~

~~Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.~~

~~Motion agreed to.~~


~~Bill read a first time.~~

### ~~Referral to the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee~~

~~**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee.~~

## NATURE CONSERVATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2)

### Introduction

 **Hon. SL DICKSON** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing) (12.26 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Aboriginal Land Act 1991, the Civil Liability Act 2003, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Forestry Act 1959, the Fossicking Act 1994, the Geothermal Energy Act 2010, the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, the Land Act 1994, the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002, the Marine Parks Act 2004, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Nature Conservation Act 1992, the Petroleum Act 1923, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006, the Survey and Mapping Infrastructure Act 2003, the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 and the Vegetation Management Act 1999 for particular purposes, and to make consequential or minor amendments to the Acts as stated in schedule 1 for purposes related to those particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Health and Community Services Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2013.

*Tabled paper:* Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2013, explanatory notes.

In April of this year the house passed the first stage of amendments to the Nature Conservation Act 1992, delivering immediate and necessary reforms to support the Queensland government's commitment to improving access to our national parks while achieving a reduction in red tape and

streamlining legislation. This enabled the landmark reform of allowing for ecotourism facilities on national parks. Today I am pleased to introduce into the House the second stage of reforms to the Nature Conservation Act through the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2013.

This bill will result in the most significant changes to the way that Queensland national parks and other protected areas are managed since the Nature Conservation Act was introduced in 1992. It will continue to build on this government's reputation as delivering policy outcomes while reducing unnecessary or complicated legislation. It will result in our national parks and other protected areas being managed more effectively with a focus on the protection and appreciation of all the values these areas contain. Importantly, the object of the Nature Conservation Act is being expanded to better provide for increased recreation and ecotourism opportunities in the protected area estate, all the while retaining a focus on the conservation of nature. Currently, the object of the Nature Conservation Act is limited to the conservation of nature. It fails to recognise that the act already provides for a broad variety of uses of protected areas. It also fails to place enough emphasis on achieving recreational and commercial outcomes, such as ecotourism in the management of protected areas.

019 While the conservation of nature remains, this bill includes three new outcomes provided under the object of the act: firstly, the involvement of Indigenous people in the management of protected areas; secondly, the use and enjoyment of protected areas by the community; and, thirdly, the social, cultural and commercial uses of protected areas. All three of those outcomes are consistent with this government's commitment to open up protected areas for international and domestic visitors and the wider community to enjoy.

This bill will also drastically reduce the large number of tenure categories within the Nature Conservation Act. These categories, a number of which have never been used since the introduction of the act in 1992, create an unnecessary degree of confusion around how protected areas should be managed. The bill simplifies this structure in line with this government's commitment to streamlining legislation and reducing regulatory complexity. In the future, Queensland's protected areas will be divided into two main classes: national parks and regional parks. The focus of national parks and their management will be around the conservation of natural and cultural values. The cardinal principle of national park management, that a national park is managed to the greatest possible extent for the permanent preservation of the area's natural condition and the protection of its cultural resources and values, will not be changed. However, the management principles have been broadened to acknowledge that national parks provide for educational, recreational and ecotourism opportunities that are consistent with the area's natural and cultural values. The focus of regional parks and their management principles will be a broad variety of uses, including commercial and recreational purposes, while still having a focus on the natural and cultural values of the areas. Reducing the number of tenure classes will not result in a reduction in management flexibility; rather, it will increase.

The bill includes the creation of special management areas on national parks that will allow for special activities to take place, such as scientific research or the manipulation of an area's natural resources to achieve a conservation outcome. A special management area will also be used to allow the opportunity for the continuation of existing uses on a national park. Historically, those interests have been managed through either a grandfathering provision within the act or a previous use authority. Those activities will now be allowed to continue under a special management area, but there will be the requirement that the natural and cultural values of the area are not diminished as a result of the activity being authorised. There will be no mining on national parks. Previously approved mining activity will be allowed to continue within specified areas of regional parks through the declaration of a resource use area. This will allow for the current resource extraction activity on resources reserves to proceed.

The management planning process that is currently within the Nature Conservation Act will be completely reformed to allow for greater flexibility and resource efficiency in the management of protected areas. We know from the Auditor-General's 2010 report that the former government had management plans for just 17 per cent of protected areas. By their own admission, it would take 30 years and \$60 million to complete them all. The requirement that a management plan is prepared for all protected areas is an extraordinarily costly and resource intensive process to implement. To streamline this process, this bill will make it a requirement that a management statement is developed for all protected areas. These are a much simpler planning document to prepare and in most cases are considered to adequately cover the relevant management issues.

In those situations where there is a particular need for a management plan, for example, where more complex management issues need to be resolved, a management plan can take the place of a management statement. The process for developing a management plan has also been simplified, to ensure that the planning process is as resource efficient as possible. This bill also introduces amendments to streamline the conservation planning process by adopting the planning requirements specified under the Nature Conservation Act for the making, review and amendment of regulations.

This bill makes amendments to the Nature Conservation Act, the Forestry Act, the Marine Parks Act and the Recreation Areas Management Act to reduce the state's exposure to liability on Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service managed areas. These amendments will provide civil immunity coverage to the state, the minister, the chief executive or any employee or volunteer in undertaking their responsibilities for managing the area in a proceeding for damages based on death, personal injury, property damage and any resulting economic loss. This government recognises that there are some things it should be responsible for managing, including structures such as bridges or constructed lookouts, as well as management activities such as controlled burns. The amendments make it clear that in undertaking these management responsibilities the state's exposure to claims of negligence will remain unchanged. These measures are a practical response to the growing trend in large personal injury claims, ensuring the state is not exposed to frivolous claims.

The bill amends the Nature Conservation Act to allow conservation officers to provide proof of authority at the first reasonable opportunity rather than requiring this to be done before exercising their power. The bill also amends the Nature Conservation Act to ensure that persons submitting documents, including applications made electronically, do not contain information that the person knows is false, misleading or incomplete. Finally, the bill creates a new offence for selling meat or other products sourced from dugong or marine turtle from commercial premises. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. SL DICKSON** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing) (12.37 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to the Health and Community Services Committee

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health and Community Services Committee.

## ~~JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL~~

~~Resumed from 5 June 2013 (see p.1945).~~

### ~~Second Reading~~



~~**Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney General and Minister for Justice) (12.37 pm): I move—~~

~~That the bill be now read a second time.~~

~~I thank the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for its consideration of the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013. I also thank the stakeholders who lodged written submissions as part of the committee's examination of the bill. The purpose of the bill is to amend court and tribunal related legislation and other statutes related to the administration of justice, fair trading, and workplace health and safety. I cannot say that in the House this afternoon we are going to have the most entertaining debate on these subject matters, but they are all important to delivering justice.~~

~~The bill proposes amendments to over 30 acts. These amendments are necessary to clarify or otherwise improve the operation of various statutes within the Justice portfolio, including to clarify and improve provisions concerning the operation of various commission, court, tribunal and registry~~