

~~Proceeds Confiscation Act 2002, the Maritime Safety Queensland Act 2002, the Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Act 1995, the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994 and the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995, and to amend the acts mentioned in schedule 1, for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee to consider the bill.~~

~~Tabled paper: Transport Operations (Marine Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015.~~

~~Tabled paper: Transport Operations (Marine Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015, explanatory notes.~~

~~I am pleased to introduce the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015. This bill is related to the Transport Operations (Marine Safety—Domestic Commercial Vessel National Law Application) Bill 2015 just introduced. It too supports implementation of the Commonwealth's Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law Act 2012 and the remake of the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Regulation 2004.~~

~~This bill will ensure there is no overlap between state and federal legislation in the regulation of domestic commercial vessels. Notwithstanding the national law, Queensland's marine safety legislation continues to regulate Queensland's recreational vessels and those vessels explicitly excluded under the national law, such as those of Surf Life Saving Queensland and schools that offer marine studies. This bill will provide necessary streamlining by removing redundant provisions and amending provisions that will remain in effect for Queensland regulated ships and ships explicitly excluded from the national law.~~

~~While technical standards is now a Commonwealth function, my office, through the Department of Transport and Main Roads, will continue to provide an advocacy function for operators based in Queensland. Some specific regulatory responsibilities also remain as a state function. For example, marine pollution prevention and response, the transportation of dangerous goods, waterways management including provisions dealing with alcohol and drug testing and the setting of speed limits will remain as state functions.~~

~~The bill also provides for a number of small technical amendments to other legislation. These changes include amendments to definitions and the modernisation of terminology. I commend this bill to the House. →~~

### **First Reading**

~~**Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (2.42 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 Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee**

~~**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Grace): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee.~~

## **NATURE CONSERVATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

### **<Introduction**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (2.43 pm): <I present a bill for an act to >amend the Aboriginal Land Act 1991, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Land Act 1994, the Marine Parks Act 2004, the Nature Conservation Act 1992, the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006 and the acts mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Agriculture and Environment Committee to consider the bill.

~~Tabled paper: Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015.~~

~~Tabled paper: Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015, explanatory notes.~~

~~I am pleased to introduce the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015. This government made an election commitment to ensure the protected area estate is managed in~~

accordance with the cardinal principle to preserve and protect natural conditions, cultural resources and values to the greatest extent possible. This bill is an import and significant step in implementing this commitment.

This government is committed to consultation, and one of the things this bill delivers is the removal of the unnecessary and frankly offensive provision that allowed the government to change a protected area management plan without consulting the public. These are public assets. They are used and enjoyed by the public, and the previous government treated them as though they were merely the property of the minister.

The previous government's approach to the management of national parks showed the lack of respect for which they became well known. They did not consult with stakeholders who have a long history of volunteer activity, donations and passionate support for conservation. The LNP forced through changes to the laws that govern how our parks are managed in a way which signalled an intention—indeed, a willingness—to allow parks to be used in a range of ways that are incompatible with their primary purpose of conserving this state's nature for the enjoyment of the whole community and for the betterment of Queensland.

With this bill we are righting a wrong and restoring confidence and certainty that parks are going to be used for conservation purposes, for scientific purposes and for recreation purposes. We are ensuring that where there is commercial activity, such as ecotourism adjacent to or on a park, the guiding principle is to protect and conserve our natural and cultural assets for future generations to enjoy.

The bill amends the Nature Conservation Act 1992, the Land Act 1994, the Marine Parks Act 2004, the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006 and makes minor and consequential amendments to other acts. The amendments will reverse changes made by the previous government that are incompatible with this government's priorities for the protected area estate. The bill also contains some unrelated amendments to the Environmental Protection Act 1994 and the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 that I will come to later.

The bill contains amendments in five key areas. Firstly, the bill will reinstate the conservation of nature as the sole object of the Nature Conservation Act so that the preservation of the natural condition of national parks will take precedence over other objectives. The additional matters that are to be removed from the object are references to social, cultural and commercial uses; community use and enjoyment; and the involvement of Indigenous people in management.

These matters will continue to be provided for elsewhere in the act. For example, the Nature Conservation Act, through a number of sections other than the object, articulates a commitment to involving Indigenous people in the management of protected areas. Reinstating the original object of the Nature Conservation Act will not impact on delivering this and will not change how the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service works with Indigenous people, but it will clarify that protected areas are primarily for the conservation of nature.

Secondly, the bill will remove redundant provisions that allowed the chief executive to grant stock grazing permits for emergency drought relief on six prescribed national parks up until the end of 2013. These provisions, when active, only provided marginal short-term benefits to a small number of graziers and did not address the key issues around drought and destocking. The government, through the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme and other support services, offers a range of more equitable assistance measures, such as subsidies and rebates, that are available to all primary producers in drought declared areas.

Thirdly, the bill will reinstate the former national park (scientific), conservation park and resources reserve classes of protected area, and their associated management principles. This will restore the higher level of protection afforded to national parks (scientific) and clarify the management intent and uses that are appropriate for the different areas. Reinstating these classes of protected area will also provide better consistency with the International Union for Conservation of Nature categories of protected area.

Activities currently authorised on resource use areas will be able to continue to operate, as authorised, in the reinstated resources reserves. The intent is to reinstate the former conservation park and resources reserve classes to provide a clear distinction between these two areas which have different purposes.

The aim is to remove confusion surrounding the use and management of regional parks as they can be used for different purposes. For example, extractive industries may occur on a regional park or

part of a regional park that has a resource use area declared over it, but not on other parts that are not declared resource use area.

024 Fourthly, the bill will exclude leases used for agriculture, grazing or pastoral purposes on protected areas from the rolling term lease provisions under the Land Act. This change will allow the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to consider the appropriateness of the use when leases expire. The rolling term lease provisions have created a perception that these leases on national parks are perpetual. A decision by the chief executive to refuse an application for extension is appealable, which could undermine the ability of park managers to manage national parks in line with the cardinal principle.

Finally, the bill will amend the Nature Conservation Act to remove an exemption that allows management plans for protected areas to be amended without public consultation, if the amendments relate to a change in state government policy. Reversing this change will provide increased transparency and ensure that appropriate consultation can occur with the public.

The bill also contains amendments to the Aboriginal Land Act to streamline the process to convert regional parks on Cape York Peninsula to jointly managed national park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal land), otherwise known as national park (CYPAL). The Queensland government is committed to implementing the Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Program. The program has the dual functions of returning land ownership to Aboriginal traditional owners and protecting the outstanding natural and cultural values of the Cape York Peninsula in jointly managed parks.

Under the program, all the national parks on Cape York Peninsula are 'transferrable', meaning that they can be transferred to Aboriginal ownership and converted to jointly managed national park (CYPAL) without first being revoked. To date, 16 national parks have been converted to national park (CYPAL) and five new jointly managed national parks (CYPAL) have been created, covering an area of around two million hectares. Two regional parks on Cape York Peninsula are scheduled for tenure resolution next year and an amendment is now required to allow the regional parks to be converted to national park (CYPAL) in the same way as the national park conversion process.

The bill also amends the Environmental Protection Act to defer the sunset clause for the expiry of the existing eligibility criteria for mining activities. The deferment allows for open and transparent consultation with stakeholders on eligibility criteria and standard conditions that have not changed since 2001. Deferring the sunset clause will not impact upon current stakeholders. Operators can continue to apply under the existing eligibility criteria and standard environmental conditions for certain environmentally relevant activities, as they currently do.

The Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 is a critical step in implementing our election commitment to ensure protected areas are managed in accordance with the cardinal principle—

**Mr Cripps** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Grace): Member for Hinchinbrook, you will have ample opportunity to debate the bill. Order, please! I call the minister.

**Dr MILES:**—to preserve and protect natural conditions, cultural resources and values to the greatest extent possible. I look forward to continuing to engage with our stakeholders about how we can improve our national parks for all Queenslanders.

This government recognises that there are wonderful contributions the private sector can make to conservation. There are opportunities for the private sector to contribute to parks in the ecotourism sector and there are going to be new opportunities for private sector landholders and corporations and philanthropic donors who want to provide land reserves which complement our national parks in an incredibly valuable way. We will be delivering more reforms in the future that allow ecotourism and private sector investment to play an increasingly stronger role alongside our traditional parks. I commend the bill to the House.>

### First Reading

**Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (2.52 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 Agriculture and Environment Committee

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Grace): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Agriculture and Environment Committee.

## **MULTICULTURAL RECOGNITION BILL**

### **<Introduction**



**Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (2.53 pm): <I present a bill for an act to >provide for a Multicultural Queensland Charter, a Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council, a multicultural policy, a multicultural action plan and for other particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Multicultural Recognition Bill 2015.

*Tabled paper:* Multicultural Recognition Bill 2015, explanatory notes.

The Multicultural Recognition Bill 2015 will deliver on the Palaszczuk government's election commitment to promote Queensland as a united, harmonious and inclusive community and foster an environment of opportunity for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The Palaszczuk government recognises that a diverse, dynamic and cohesive society provides profound benefits for all of our community. Our prosperity and productivity can only benefit from diversified workforce and business ventures and improved tourism and export markets. Despite these benefits and opportunities, evidence shows newly arrived migrants are often disadvantaged in participating in our economy.

This bill will bring Queensland into line with New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia by creating legislation that recognises our diverse cultural heritage and commits support for our multicultural and multifaith communities. This bill demonstrates parliament's commitment to multiculturalism by introducing a Multicultural Queensland Charter that outlines multicultural principles promoting harmony, inclusion and fairness. It is a statement of our values and aspirations. It is about who we are and what we hope to become.

The bill also establishes a Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council to provide advice on the issues facing Queenslanders from multicultural and multifaith backgrounds and how these can be addressed. Importantly, the advisory council's terms of reference will focus on the economic participation of migrants and refugees.

The bill imposes no compulsory requirements on business and community service providers. However, the Multicultural Queensland Charter is for anyone and everyone to adopt. Its inclusive principles can be incorporated and championed by any socially responsible business or community service provider, from how they manage workforce diversity to, if relevant, developing tailored responses to particularly vulnerable culturally and linguistically diverse customer groups.

Under this bill, the Queensland government entities, including departments and other statutory bodies will lead the way. For example, the bill requires the Queensland government to prepare a multicultural policy and action plan that will translate the principles of the charter into actions and outcomes for Queenslanders of all backgrounds.

The bill also provides strong accountabilities, including a requirement for the responsible minister to report to parliament on the outcomes of the multicultural policy at least every three years. Those government departments that are responsible for implementing the multicultural action plan will be required to report publicly on their progress every year.

The bill also requires the chief executives of Queensland government agencies to inform their staff about the charter and the multicultural policy and action plan in order to build the capacity and translate the charter into practice. In addition, the bill enables the advisory council to undertake consultations with multicultural and multifaith communities and requires the publication of a communique after each meeting so that advisory council processes are transparent and accountable.

Furthermore, the bill requires that statistical data regarding people from culturally and linguistically diverse customers is collected in a consistent and sensitive fashion. This will strengthen