



Submission to the

**Health and Community  
Services Committee**

on the

*Forestry and Another Act  
Amendment Bill 2014*

Prepared by:  
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April 2014

Trevor Ruthenberg MP  
Chair  
Health and Community Services Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000

24 April 2014

Dear Mr Ruthenberg

The Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) refers to your letter dated 24 March 2014 requesting written submissions on the Forestry and Another Act Amendment Bill 2014 (the Bill). We welcome the opportunity to provide feedback to the Health and Community Services Committee (the committee) on the tourism related matters of the Bill.

As the state peak industry body for tourism in Queensland, QTIC represents the interests of the tourism industry including business operators, Regional Tourism Organisations (RTOs) and sector associations. QTIC works in partnership with government agencies and industry bodies at a local, state and national level, to strengthen the voice of tourism in all relevant policy forums.

The Queensland Government has recognised tourism as one of 'the four pillars of the economy' and has the declared goal of doubling overnight visitor expenditure to \$30 billion by 2020. As established through *DestinationQ*, a formal partnership between government and industry, a key goal in achieving this target is to increase access to national parks and promote ecotourism activities as well as recreational activities in Queensland's natural environment.

QTIC has been involved in a number of environmental policies that will allow for visitor enjoyment of our national parks and public lands. These have included submissions, public hearings, media releases and partnership with government to support the amendments to the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* as well as in the release of the *Queensland Ecotourism Plan 2013-2020*.

**In line with previous work undertaken by QTIC, we therefore support the Bill where it improves access to recreational opportunities on public lands and removes red tape for businesses undertaking commercial recreational activity, particularly for filming and photography.**

In particular, support is shown for:

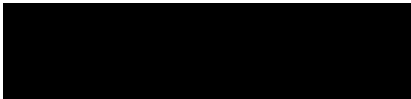
- the revision of the definition of 'commercial activity' in the Forestry Act and the RAM Act to extend the current permit exemption from '2 or less people' to '10 or less people' (where no structures are involved) to reflect the low level risk associated with this small scale of activity;
- amendments to the Forestry Act and the RAM Act to allow for commercial activity permit renewals for permit holders to continue undertaking the same commercial activity in the same location; and

- the revision of the definition of 'recreational purpose' to allow it to cover a recreational service provided by a business, where currently it is defined as 'any purpose other than a purpose of business'. Allowing a business to provide a particular recreational service on a part of a State forest may be the most effective means of providing that service.

QTIC is committed to support the removal of regulatory inefficiency as a critical priority for Queensland businesses. We look forward to our continued work in reducing the regulatory burden on recreational and tourism businesses through any further amendments to the Act, however we note herein that we are unavailable for the upcoming public hearing on Wednesday 7 May 2014.

We welcome the opportunity for further discussion regarding the content of this submission. For all enquiries, please contact us on (07) 3236 1445 or email [policy@qtic.com.au](mailto:policy@qtic.com.au).

Kind regards,



**Daniel Gschwind**  
Chief Executive  
Queensland Tourism Industry Council