

Executive Summary

The primary purpose of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (the Bill) is to maintain current operational practices under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act) to use an electronic system for automatically issuing authorities for low-risk activities. Such authorities include those for low-risk wildlife activities such as keeping native animals as pets.

The Bill also aims to maintain the ability to automatically grant certain types of environmental authorities under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act) through an electronic system. The amendments aim to remove uncertainty regarding the use of electronic systems for automatic authorisations and maximise the use of resources to assess high-risk activities.

The Statement of Compatibility accompanying the Bill notes that the amendments ‘will also remove any doubt around the validity of authorities under both the NC Act and EP Act previously dealt with by an automatic system.’¹

The Bill contains amendments to the NC Act and the EP Act to:

- clarify and contemporise relevant provisions of the NC Act in relation to use of electronic systems to automatically deal with authorities;
- ensure the continued automatic dealing for particular authorities using a contemporary framework and in a way that has regard to regulatory obligations; and
- provide retrospective validation to all authorities previously granted by the operation of an automated system.

The Bill also contains amendments to the EP Act to clarify beyond reasonable doubt that penalty infringement notices can be issued for non-compliance with in-force environmental protection orders, direction notices and clean-up notices.²

The committee is satisfied that the Bill gives sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals and the institution of Parliament as required by the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, and the *Legislative Standards Act 1992* (LSA). Further, the committee is satisfied that the Bill is compatible with human rights as defined in the *Human Rights Act 2019* (HRA).

The committee made one recommendation, found at page vi of this report, that the Bill be passed.

¹ Statement of compatibility, p 1.

² Statement of compatibility, p 1.