

Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014

Explanatory notes for SL 2014 No. 13

made under the

Nature Conservation Act 1992

General Outline

Short title

Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014

Authorising law

Section 175 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

From time to time, applications are made to install, maintain or use infrastructure on national parks including service facilities. The Act contains strict criteria which must be satisfied before the grant of an authority for such infrastructure can be made by the chief executive.

Under section 35(1) of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (the Act) the chief executive may grant, make, issue or give a lease, agreement, license, permit or other authority over, or in relation to, land in a national park or national park (recovery) if:

- a) the use under the authority is only for a service facility or an ecotourism facility; and
- b) if the use under the authority is for a service facility, the chief executive is satisfied-
 - i) if the land is in a national park, the cardinal principle for the management of national parks will be observed to the greatest possible extent; and
 - ii) if the land is in national park (recovery), the management principle under section 19A(a) will be observed to the greatest possible extent; and

- iii) the use will be in the public interest; and
- iv) the use will be ecologically sustainable; and
- v) there is no reasonably practicable alternative to the use; and

c) if the use under the authority is for an ecotourism facility, the chief executive is satisfied-

- i) the use will be in the public interest; and
- ii) the use is ecologically sustainable; and
- iii) the use will provide, to the greatest possible extent, for the preservation of the land's natural condition and the protection of the land's cultural resources and values; and

d) the use under the authority is prescribed under a regulation made for this section to be a permitted use for the area.

The following uses have been assessed and meet the requirements under section 35(1)(b) of the Act:

- Use and operation of existing service facilities, within part of Mount Cook National Park;
- Use and operation of existing service facilities within part of Bowling Green Bay National Park;
- Installation and operation of a service facility, within part of Burrum Coast National Park;
- Use and operation of existing service facilities, within part of Conway National Park; and
- Installation and operation of a service facility, within part of Lizard Island National Park.

Before the chief executive may grant a section 35 authority for one of the above activities, the use and the relevant national park must be prescribed in the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2006*, Schedule 3.

Achievement of policy objectives

The objective is to amend Schedule 3 of the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2006* to permit the uses within a part of the Mount Cook National Park, Bowling Green Bay National Park, Conway National Park, Lizard Island National Park and Burrum Coast National Park.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The amendment regulation is consistent with the main objectives of section 35 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

This regulation is not inconsistent with any other legislation.

Benefits and costs of implementation

The proposed amendment is an administrative process to provide for the authorisation of infrastructure on the protected areas in compliance with section 35 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. There are no associated implementation costs.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

This regulation is consistent with the fundamental legislative principles, as defined in the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*.

Consultation

Officers of the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service consulted with the applicants for the authorities and the key stakeholders.

The Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) has been consulted regarding obligations for a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS). OBPR advised that the amendments do not impose significant adverse impacts on the community, business or government. Consequently a RIS is not required.

Standard notification or consultation includes addressing Native title and other agencies where joint land administration arrangements occur.