

Vegetation Management (Regional Ecosystems) Amendment Regulation 2018

Explanatory notes for SL 2018 No. 23

made under the

Vegetation Management Act 1999

General Outline

Short title

Vegetation Management (Regional Ecosystems) Amendment Regulation 2018.

Authorising law

Sections 72, 22LA, 22LB and 22LC of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, was established to regulate the clearing of native vegetation in Queensland.

The objective of the *Vegetation Management (Regional Ecosystems) Amendment Regulation 2018* (the amendment regulation) is to give effect to updated regional ecosystems and corresponding conservation classes which are declared within the *Vegetation Management Regulation 2012*.

The *Vegetation Management Regulation 2012* supports the implementation of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* by (amongst other things) declaring classification of regional ecosystems.

The list of declared regional ecosystems and conservation classes in the *Vegetation Management Regulation 2012* has not been updated since 2013.

The Queensland Herbarium maps the regional ecosystems that occur in Queensland. This mapping process results in regular reviews to regional ecosystem descriptions and status and in new versions of the Queensland Herbarium's regional ecosystem map. In 2016, the Queensland Herbarium released version 10 of its regional

ecosystem mapping and this map along with the updated list of regional ecosystems and conservation classes, represent best available science.

The *Vegetation Management Regulation 2012* needs to be updated to bring the list of regional ecosystems and conservation classes in the *Vegetation Management Regulation 2012* consistent with latest science.

Achievement of policy objectives

To achieve the objective, Schedules 1 to 5 of the *Vegetation Management Regulation 2012* will be amended to provide for:

- the scheduling of 156 new regional ecosystems, and removal of 84 regional ecosystems from the schedule,
- 24 regional ecosystems that are changing to a higher conservation class schedule (e.g. from least concern to of concern), and
- 17 regional ecosystems that are changing to a lower conservation class schedule (e.g. from of concern to least concern).

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The amendment regulation is consistent with the objectives of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, to regulate the clearing of vegetation in a way that prevents the loss of biodiversity.

The regional ecosystems and corresponding conservation classes will be updated to ensure the regulation of vegetation clearing is based on best available science and prevents the loss of biodiversity.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

The amendment regulation is not inconsistent with the policy objectives of other legislation.

Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives

There are no alternatives to meet the desired policy outcomes.

Benefits and costs of implementation

There are no additional costs associated with implementation of this amendment.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The amendments are consistent with the fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

The list of regional ecosystems associated with the version 10 mapping was developed from a number of Bioregional Technical Review workshops held by the Queensland Herbarium and comprised of Government and non-Government experts during 2016. The experts categorized the regional ecosystems according to the criteria for endangered, of concern and least concern regional ecosystems specified in the Act.

The Queensland Herbarium's version 10 mapping and associated list of regional ecosystems has been in the public domain since December 2016 on the Department of Environment and Science website.

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