

Forestry and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024

Explanatory notes for SL 2024 No. 222

made under the

Forestry Act 1959

Nature Conservation Act 1992

General Outline

Short title

Forestry and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024

Authorising law

Sections 26, 32, 32A and 97 of the *Forestry Act 1959* (Forestry Act)

Sections 29, 30, 32, 36A, 43D, 47, 48, 50, 64 and 175 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act).

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The primary objectives of the *Forestry and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024* (Amendment Regulation) are to:

- revoke the entirety of the State plantation forest declaration on one State forest
- revoke parts of ten State forests and the entirety of five State forests
- redescribe eleven State forests
- revoke parts of one national park
- dedicate two new national parks and one new conservation park
- increase the area of six national parks and two conservation parks
- revoke one nature refuge to allow the area to be declared as a special wildlife reserve

Revocations affecting the forestry and protected area estates are carefully considered and are only supported when they are sensible actions that link to balanced public interest outcomes or necessary management of the estates. Revocations are progressed in accordance with

departmental policy, and compensation for the loss of estate is satisfied by the proponent, where appropriate.

The core aim of dedicating new or amending existing protected areas is to permanently preserve, to the greatest extent possible, the area's natural condition, to protect the area's cultural resources and values and provide for ecologically sustainable activities and ecotourism.

As part of the Native Timber Action Plan, the Queensland Government committed to progressively transfer up to 20,000 hectares of State forest within the South East Queensland Regional Plan area (SEQ) to the protected area estate. The initiative affords stronger protections and enhanced management for crucial habitat areas containing threatened species in SEQ. The Amendment Regulation transfers more than 10,800 hectares of State forests to protected areas, including parts of eight State forests and two entire State forests to four existing national parks, one new national park, two existing conservation parks and one new conservation park. Updated plans have been developed to facilitate the conversion of these areas to protected area status where relevant.

The Amendment Regulation revokes the remaining parts of Yurol State Forest and Ringtail State Forest and dedicates the areas as part of Tewantin National Park. The actions are part of the third and final stage of a joint revegetation project covering about 2,400 hectares, involving the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), Noosa Shire Council, Noosa Parks Association, HQPlantations Pty Ltd, Kabi Kabi Peoples Aboriginal Corporation (KKPAC) and Greenfleet Australia. Increased protection and restoration of the area's natural ecosystems will provide new habitat for koalas and other species, carbon sequestration and also recreational opportunities for the community.

Revoking the entirety of Targinie State Forest will support the Coordinator-General's Gladstone State Development Area (GSDA) which seeks to support growth of the hydrogen export industry and renewable energy infrastructure. The action is driven by the necessity to establish a new multi-user infrastructure corridor linking the GSDA to Fisherman's Landing at the Port of Gladstone. The GSDA was chosen as an ideal location due to the availability of land, infrastructure networks and access to port facilities in the area. The revocation action includes a land compensation component that will see more than 1,400 hectares added to the protected area estate, providing significant conservation and management benefits. The compensation land, located on Curtis Island, contains a diverse range of eucalypt forest, woodlands, and wetlands, including significant areas of endangered and of-concern regional ecosystems. Nearby land and tidal areas are known to provide habitat for species of conservation significance such as the beach stone curlew, eastern curlew, dugong, Australian snubfin dolphin and flatback turtle.

The revocation of parts of Expedition (Limited Depth) National Park is to facilitate lawful thoroughfare access to an adjoining property containing leases for resource activities. The revocation footprint aligns with an existing road and is not considered to present significant impacts upon the values of the national park as the road area is already disturbed and has existed for over thirty years. The revocation is considered necessary to allow road maintenance activities including installation of erosion and sediment controls that do not align with national park management principles. Post revocation, the land will remain in the

trusteeship of Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI) to ensure the revoked land continues to be adequately managed. The revocation action includes a compensation component that was negotiated in accordance with departmental policy, which will result in a significant net gain to the protected area estate. The area to be revoked from Expedition (Limited Depth) National Park has been slightly reduced by about 0.013 hectares from the area approved by the Legislative Assembly, to ensure the finalised survey plan meets the requirements of the *Cadastral Survey Requirements*, which specifies rounding of 'about' areas and the number of significant figures that can be used.

The revocation of part of Beerburrum East State Forest is to accommodate a Department of Transport and Main Road's project to duplicate Caboolture-Bribie Island Road. The upgrade will improve safety, ease congestion, and improve traffic flow for motorists travelling on the road corridor. The action is not considered to present significant impacts upon the values of the State forest as the area is disturbed and the revocation area has been kept to a minimum.

The revocation of part of Curra State Forest is to rectify an encroachment into the State forest and create a practical boundary management for the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS). The revoked area will be added to the adjoining road reserve.

Another objective is to provide for the continuation of existing beekeeping activities that have been identified in seven areas of State forest (apiary areas) that are being dedicated as national park through this Amendment Regulation. Beekeeping would need to cease (after the remaining term of Forestry Act permits expire) when the land is dedicated as national park unless the apiary areas are prescribed in regulation.

This Amendment Regulation also includes minor amendments, such as updating of the plans that define the boundaries of the forestry and protected area estate using contemporary survey and mapping technology. Reasons for these updates include boundary consolidation due to tenure actions and to update plan information for improved clarity, accuracy and transparency for the protected area and forest estate reporting system. Correcting administrative errors and amending descriptions will meet description requirements under the *Land Act 1994*.

Achievement of policy objectives

To achieve its objective, the Amendment Regulation amends:

1. Schedule 2: State plantation forests of the *Forestry Regulation 2024* to:
 - a. revoke the entirety of the State plantation forest declaration on Ringtail State Forest, described as lot A on PLP0997.
2. Schedule: State forests of the *Forestry (State Forests) Regulation 1987* to:
 - a. revoke the setting apart and declaration of parts of Beerburrum East State Forest, described as lot 4 on AP23631 (to be described as lots 401 to 406 on SP338758), containing a total area of about 2.0793 hectares, about 55 kilometres north of Brisbane, for the Bribie Island Road upgrade. The revocation footprint is not considered to present significant impacts to conservation values of the QPWS estate as the area is an isolated vegetation buffer to non-native plantation forests and is already partially disturbed by edge effects;

- b. revoke the setting apart and declaration of the entirety of Yurol State Forest, described as lots 3 and 4 on AP22502 and lot 5 on AP23654, containing a total area of about 479.19 hectares, to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Tewantin National Park, about 14 kilometres west of Tewantin. This action will allow for revegetation efforts to restore natural ecosystems and afford national park level protection for the area. Completion of restoration activities will deliver new habitat for koalas, sequestration of carbon and recreational opportunities for the community;
- c. revoke the setting apart and declaration of the entirety of Ringtail State Forest, described as lots 6, 7, 8 and 11 AP22503 and lot 5 on AP23653, containing a total area of about 889.0402 hectares, to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Tewantin National Park, about 14 kilometres west of Tewantin. This action will allow for revegetation efforts to restore natural ecosystems and afford national park level protection for the area. Completion of restoration activities will deliver new habitat for koalas, sequestration of carbon and recreational opportunities for the community;
- d. redescribe the entirety of Targinie State Forest, as lots 1 to 6 on SP346685, containing a total area of about 542.764 hectares (a decrease of about 2.236 hectares), due to a replacement Survey Plan; and subsequently, revoke the setting apart and declaration of the entirety of Targinie State Forest, about 16 kilometres north-west of Gladstone. The action is necessary for the establishment of a new multi-user infrastructure corridor linking the GSDA to Fisherman's Landing at the Port of Gladstone. The loss of State forest area is not expected to significantly impact the values of the QPWS estate as the area is largely disturbed on ground with the presence of an oil shale mine, coal seam gas pipelines and other mining activities;
- e. redescribe the entirety of Jimna State Forest as lots 1 and 207 on AP23883, containing an area of about 10,315.9836 hectares (a decrease of about 0.0164 hectares), using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards; and subsequently, revoke the setting apart and declaration of part of Jimna State Forest, described as lot 1 on AP23883, containing an area of about 843.1309 hectares, to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Wrattens National Park, about 52 kilometres south of Gympie. The remaining area of the State forest will be about 9,472.8527 hectares;
- f. redescribe the entirety of Peachester State Forest as lots 3 and 313 on AP23888, containing a total area of about 737.4445 hectares (an increase of about 3.4445 hectares), using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards; and subsequently, revoke the setting apart and declaration of part of Peachester State Forest, described as lot 3 on AP23888, containing an area of about 657.509 hectares, to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Glass House Mountains Conservation Park, about 68 kilometres north of Brisbane. The remaining area of the State forest will be about 79.9355 hectares;
- g. redescribe the entirety of Squirrel Creek State Forest as lots 343 to 344 on AP23882, containing a total area of about 6,610.0692 hectares (a decrease of about 79.3845 hectares), using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards; and subsequently, revoke the setting apart and declaration of part of Squirrel Creek State Forest, described as lot 344 on AP23882, containing an area of about 6,461.858 hectares, to allow the area to be dedicated as the new Squirrel Creek National Park, about 110 kilometres north-west of Brisbane. The remaining area of the State forest will be about 148.2112 hectares;

- h. redescribe the entirety of Bellthorpe State Forest as lot 572 on AP23880, containing an area of about 479.277 hectares (a decrease of about 12.723 hectares), using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards; and subsequently, revoke the setting apart and declaration of the entirety of Bellthorpe State Forest, containing an area of about 479.277 hectares, to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Bellthorpe National Park, about 73 kilometres north of Brisbane;
- i. redescribe the entirety of Beerburrum West State Forest as lots 4 to 7 and 589 to 592 on AP23657, containing a total area of about 9,268.9999 hectares (an increase of about 21.8685 hectares), using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards; and subsequently, revoke the setting apart and declaration of part of Beerburrum West State Forest, described as lot 4 on AP23657, containing an area of about 227.7837 hectares, to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Glass House Mountains National Park, about 68 kilometres north of Brisbane; and also, revoke the setting apart and declaration of part of Beerburrum West State Forest, described as lots 5 to 7 on AP23657, containing a total area of about 891.1593 hectares, to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Glass House Mountains Conservation Park, about 68 kilometres north of Brisbane. The remaining area of the State forest will be about 8,150.0569 hectares;
- j. redescribe the entirety of Deer Reserve State Forest as lots 3 and 637 on AP23887, containing a total area of about 1,663.2387 hectares (a decrease of about 0.1806 hectares), using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards; and subsequently, revoke the setting apart and declaration of part of Deer Reserve State Forest, described as lot 3 on AP23887, containing an area of about 99.8631 hectares, to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Deer Reserve Conservation Park, about 74 kilometres north of Brisbane. The remaining area of the State forest will be about 1,563.3756 hectares;
- k. redescribe the entirety of Elgin Vale State Forest as lots 673 to 675 on AP23889, containing a total area of about 9,631.9955 hectares (an increase of about 22.9955 hectares), using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards; and subsequently, revoke the setting apart and declaration of part of Elgin Vale State Forest, described as lot 674 on AP23889, containing an area of about 212.2387 hectares, to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Wrattens National Park, about 52 kilometres south of Gympie. The remaining area of the State forest will be about 9,419.7568 hectares;
- l. revoke the setting apart and declaration of part of Curra State Forest, described as lot 700 on plan FTY1491 (to be described as lot 104 on SP334006), containing an area of about 0.6297 hectares, about 12 kilometres north of Gympie. The remaining area of the State forest will be about 4,741.1183 hectares. The action is to rectify a small encroachment into the State forest and to create a practical management boundary for QPWS. The proposal is unlikely to have significant impacts on the QPWS estate as the on-ground condition of the area is disturbed;
- m. redescribe the entirety of Luttons State Forest as lots 2 and 766 on AP23886, containing a total area of about 251.2888 hectares (an increase of about 0.0722 hectares), using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards; and subsequently, revoke the setting apart and declaration of part of Luttons State Forest, described as lot 2 on AP23886, containing an area of about 119.1279 hectares, to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Glass House Mountains Conservation Park, about 68 kilometres north of Brisbane. The remaining area of the State forest will be about 132.1609 hectares;

- n. redescribe the entirety of Yabba State Forest as lots 1 and 986 to 989 on AP23884, containing a total area of about 15,898.3418 hectares (a decrease of about 97.6582 hectares), using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards; and subsequently, revoke the setting apart and declaration of part of Yabba State Forest, described as lot 1 on AP23884, containing an area of about 576.2108 hectares, to allow the area to be dedicated as part of Wrattens National Park, about 52 kilometres south of Gympie. The remaining area of the State forest will be about 15,322.131 hectares;
 - o. redescribe the entirety of Delaneys Creek State Forest as lot 2563 on AP23778, containing an area of about 289.4595 hectares (an increase of about 2.4595 hectares), using contemporary survey and mapping technology and standards; and subsequently, revoke the setting apart and declaration of the entirety of Delaneys Creek State Forest, described as lot 2563 on AP23778, containing an area of about 289.4595 hectares, to allow the area to be dedicated as the new Delaneys Creek Conservation Park, about 53 kilometres north of Brisbane.
3. Schedule 2: National parks of the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Regulation 1994* to:
- a. dedicate the entirety of Bellthorpe State Forest, described as lot 572 on AP23880, containing an area of about 479.277 hectares, as part of Bellthorpe National Park, about 73 kilometres north of Brisbane. The area forms part of a bioregional corridor containing important lowland forest ecosystems and includes habitat for species of conservation significance including the tusked frog, koala and cascade treefrog;
 - b. revoke the setting apart and declaration of parts of Expedition (Limited Depth) National Park, to be described as lots 1 to 3 on SP338905, containing a total area of about 24.657 hectares, about 120 kilometres north of Roma, to facilitate lawful thoroughfare access to an adjoining property containing leases for resource activities. The revocation footprint aligns with an existing road and is not considered to present significant impacts upon the values of the national park as the road area is already disturbed and has existed for over thirty years. Following revocation, the land area is being retained by the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation and appropriate compensation has been provided for the action that will provide a significant net conservation outcome for the QPWS estates;
 - c. dedicate an area described as lot 3 on SP301977, containing an area of about 12,700 hectares, as part of Girringun National Park, about 56 kilometres north-west of Ingham. The addition of this parcel provides protection for a range of endangered and of concern habitats that support known populations of threatened fauna, including the southern cassowary, the mahogany glider and the tube-nosed insectivorous bat;
 - d. dedicate the revoked area of Beerburrum West State Forest, described as lot 4 on AP23657, containing an area of about 227.7837 hectares, as part of Glass House Mountains National Park, about 68 kilometres north of Brisbane. The dedication area is adjacent to Glass House Mountains National Park and will provide connectivity and management benefits. It also contains significant conservation values including habitat for species such as the glossy black-cockatoo and tusked frog;

- e. dedicate an area described as lot 7 on plan MCH4562, containing an area of about 428 hectares, as part of Great Sandy National Park, about 128 kilometres north of Brisbane. The area is predominantly natural closed heath and melaleuca open forest containing very high conservation values. Dedication of the lot as national park tenure will consolidate boundaries and benefit national park management;
 - f. dedicate an area described as lot 2 on AP23897, containing an area of about 10,320 hectares, as the new Redcliffe Tableland National Park, about 114 kilometres west of Mackay. The area contains geological formations that provide for restricted ecosystems including brigalow and vine forest as well as healthy grasslands. The area contains endangered and of concern regional ecosystems that occur here in isolation and is important habitat for the endangered northern quoll, vulnerable squatter pigeon and other woodland species;
 - g. dedicate the revoked area of Squirrel Creek State Forest, described as lot 344 on AP23882, containing an area of about 6,461.858 hectares, as the new Squirrel Creek National Park, about 110 kilometres north-west of Brisbane. The area contains endangered and of-concern regional ecosystems and riverine wetlands which provide important habitat for vulnerable species including the plumed frogmouth and black-breasted button-quail;
 - h. dedicate the entirety of Yurol State Forest, described as lots 3 and 4 on AP22502 and lot 5 on AP23654, and the entirety of Ringtail State Forest, described as lots 6, 7, 8 and 11 on AP22503 and lot 5 on AP23653, containing a total area of about 1,368.2302 hectares, as part of Tewantin National Park, about 14 kilometres west of Tewantin. The former State forest areas contain core habitat for the vulnerable wallum rocketfrog, wallum froglet and koala, and are partly situated in the Mary River Catchment. The dedications will also allow for revegetation activities and deliver significant regional benefits by enhancing a unique wildlife corridor, increasing biodiversity conservation, and creating recreational and nature-based opportunities for the community after restoration activities are completed;
 - i. dedicate the revoked area of Jimna State Forest, described as lot 1 on AP23883, the revoked area of Elgin Vale State Forest, described as lot 674 on AP23889 and the revoked area of Yabba State Forest, described as lot 1 on AP23884, containing a total area of about 1,631.5804 hectares, as part of Wrattens National Park, about 52 kilometres south of Gympie. The former Jimna State Forest and Yabba State Forest areas support several threatened species including the tusked frog, glossy black-cockatoo and koala. The former Elgin Vale State Forest area contains an of-concern regional ecosystem and will increase protection of riverine wetlands with high aquatic conservation significance.
4. Schedule 3: Conservation parks of the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Regulation 1994* to:
- a. dedicate the revoked area of Deer Reserve State Forest, described as lot 3 on AP23887, containing an area of about 99.8631 hectares, as part of Deer Reserve Conservation Park, about 74 kilometres north of Brisbane. The dedication area contains significant conservation values including the presence of koala and rib-fruited malletwood;
 - b. dedicate the entirety of Delaneys Creek State Forest, described as lot 2563 on AP23778, containing an area of about 289.4595 hectares, as the new Delaneys Creek Conservation Park, about 53 kilometres north of Brisbane. The dedication area forms part of a bioregional corridor that contains habitat for unique flora and fauna including Bahrs scrub cotton, hairy hazelwood and Richmond birdwing;

- c. dedicate the revoked area of Beerburrum West State Forest, described as lots 5 to 7 on AP23657, the revoked area of Luttons State Forest, described as lot 2 on AP23886 and the revoked area of Peachester State Forest, described as lot 3 on AP23888, containing a total area of about 1,667.7962 hectares, as part of Glass House Mountains Conservation Park, about 68 kilometres north of Brisbane. The former Luttons State Forest area contains significant conservation values including the Coochin Hills grevillea and habitat for threatened fauna such as the central greater glider and koala. The former Peachester State Forest area contains core koala habitat and provides significant ecological and recreational values for the broader community.
5. Schedule 4B: Special wildlife reserves of the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Regulation 1994* to:
 - a. declare an area described as part of lot 2 on GH7, containing an area of about 8,015.22 hectares, as the new Edgbaston Special Wildlife Reserve, shown on plan PA10002, about 140 kilometres north-east of Longreach. The Edgbaston artesian spring complex contains a high diversity of endemic and non-endemic species with several listed as threatened under legislation. It is the most ecologically diverse spring complex in Australia.
 6. Schedule 5: Nature refuges of the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Regulation 1994* to:
 - a. revoke the entirety of Edgbaston Nature Refuge, described as lot 2 on GH7, containing an area of about 8,075.965 hectares, shown on plan PA666, about 140 kilometres north-east of Longreach.
 7. Schedule 6: Apiary areas and maximum apiary sites of the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2024* to prescribe:
 - the former part of Bellthorpe State Forest on Lot 572 on AP23880 as an apiary area in Bellthorpe National Park with two apiary sites;
 - the former part of Beerburrum West State Forest on Lot 4 on AP23657 in Glass House Mountains National Park as an apiary area with two apiary sites;
 - the former part of Squirrel Creek State Forest on Lot 344 on AP23882 in Squirrel Creek National Park as an apiary area with thirty-four apiary sites;
 - the former part of Jimna State Forest on Lot 1 on AP23883 as an apiary area in Wrattens National Park with nine apiary sites;
 - the former part of Yabba State Forest on Lot 1 on AP23884 as an apiary area in Wrattens National Park with five apiary sites;
 - the former part of Yurol State Forest on lot 3 on AP22502 as an apiary area in Tewantin National Park with one apiary site; and
 - the former part of Ringtail State Forest on lot 5 on AP23653 as an apiary area in Tewantin National Park with four apiary sites.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The Amendment Regulation is consistent with the objectives of the Forestry Act and NC Act, namely:

- the Governor in Council may make regulations under the Forestry Act and the NC Act.

- an area of State forest may be revoked in whole or in part by regulation, only if the Governor in Council causes to be laid on the table of the Legislative Assembly and on a resolution whereof not less than 14 days notice shall have been given being passed by the Legislative Assembly for the revocation.
- if land that is State plantation forest stops being part of a State forest, the declaration of the land as a State plantation forest is taken to have been revoked.
- a regulation may dedicate a specified area of State land as a national park (scientific), a national park, a conservation park, or a resources reserve.
- an area of State forest may be revoked by regulation to allow the area to be dedicated as a protected area, only if a resolution is passed by the Legislative Assembly of Queensland.
- a protected area may be revoked by regulation in whole or in part, only if a resolution is passed by the Legislative Assembly of Queensland.
- the chief executive may grant an apiary permit for a national park, even if the permit is inconsistent with the management strategy for the park.
- a regulation may declare an area of land the subject of a conservation agreement as a special wildlife reserve.
- a conservation agreement may be terminated if the declaration of the nature refuge to which it relates is revoked.
- the State and landholders bound by a conservation agreement for a nature refuge may enter into another conservation agreement for the nature refuge that varies, or terminates and replaces, the earlier agreement.
- the Governor in Council may, by regulation, revoke the declaration of a nature refuge or coordinated conservation area in whole or in part.
- the Governor in Council may, by regulation, assign a name to, or alter the name of, a protected area or aggregation of protected areas.
- if a protected area, or part of a protected area, is declared to be a protected area of a different class, the later declaration revokes the earlier declaration of the area to which the declaration relates.
- section 36A of the NC Act enables the Minister to recommend to the Governor in Council the making of a regulation prescribing an apiary area in a national park if satisfied, under subsection (3)(f), that beekeeping activities are being lawfully carried out or are permitted on the area.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

The Amendment Regulation is not inconsistent with the policy objectives of other legislation.

In relation to the amendments prescribing apiary areas in national parks, the *Biosecurity Act 2014* includes a number of requirements in relation to the keeping and movement of bees, but the provisions relate to separate matters and there is no inconsistency.

Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives

In relation to the amendments prescribing apiary areas in national parks, there are no alternative ways of achieving the policy objectives. Section 36A of the NC Act specifically provides for the matters in the Amendment Regulation to be prescribed in regulation.

Benefits and costs of implementation

Protected areas provide conservation and ecosystem services which have indirect economic value and positive benefits to society. Protected areas also provide special places for recreation and tourism activities and are often places of important cultural and spiritual significance for Traditional Owners. Upgrading State forest areas allow areas of land to be preserved in perpetuity for the benefit of the community.

Revocations of State forests and protected areas are necessary to achieve outcomes for the public such as supporting significant transport outcomes, to appropriately maintaining ambulatory boundaries and to resolve incompatible land use issues only where it is considered appropriate and in accordance with departmental policy.

The updating of plans allows the resolution of boundary and area issues and improves clarity, accuracy and transparency of protected areas.

Implementing the Amendment Regulation is in the public interest, is not considered to constitute significant subordinate legislation and will have negligible costs.

Costs relating to the DESI's administration and ongoing management of associated areas are met through existing annual budget allocations.

In accordance with *The Queensland Government Better Regulation Policy* (the Policy), a Summary Impact Analysis Statement was prepared in relation to the regulatory proposal. The IAS determined that the proposal is minor and machinery in nature and is unlikely to result in significant adverse impacts. No further regulatory impact analysis under the Policy is required.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The Amendment Regulation has been drafted with regard to, and is consistent with, the fundamental legislative principles as defined in section 4(5) of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*.

In relation to the amendments prescribing apiary areas in national parks, the legislation does not affect the rights and liberties of individuals. The use of subordinate legislation as opposed to primary legislation is specifically provided for in section 36A of the NC Act.

Consultation

The Office of Best Practice Regulation was notified of the proposal in accordance with the Policy.

A public notice was published on DESI's website on 17 June 2024 in accordance with section 173Q of the NC Act for revocation proposals made under sections 30 and 32 of the NC Act. Three queries were received in relation to the proposals seeking additional information which were addressed.

A consultation notice was published on DESI's website on 12 July 2024, closing 15 August 2024, regarding consultation on proposed amendments to the forestry and protected area estates, and also seeking views in consideration of the *Human Rights Act 2019*, including Aboriginal peoples' and Torres Strait Islander peoples' cultural rights. One comment and one query were received but there were no objections, and DESI progressed the proposals accordingly.

HQPlantations Pty Ltd was consulted concerning its plantation license interests over parts of the State Forest revocation areas. HQPlantations offered no objections to the proposals and collaborated with DESI and DAF to excise plantation license interests from the revocation areas.

Where other third-party interests were present over land areas affected by the Amendment Regulation, consultation was conducted with relevant stakeholders by DESI or proponents to ensure interests were managed appropriately prior to any tenure changes. In accordance with the relevant legislation, interests will be able to continue post-tenure change if required.

No further external consultation was required on the remaining State forest and protected area actions as the amendments are machinery in nature.

In relation to the amendments prescribing apiary areas in national parks, a letter was sent to the State Secretary of the Queensland Beekeepers' Association (QBA) on 22 August 2024. The letter identified the State forest areas with existing beekeeping activities that were proposed to be dedicated as national park and the associated number of apiary sites. The letter also informed the QBA that all the apiary sites identified in these areas would be prescribed in the regulation so that there would be no loss of apiary sites through the conversion of these areas to national park. Permit holders were initially contacted via letter in late 2023 to inform them about the proposed changes and will receive a follow up letter to advise them that a transitional authority will automatically be issued to them at no cost when the land is dedicated as national park, so that their authorised beekeeping activities may continue unaffected by the change in tenure.