



QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT **COMMITTEES**

Report on subordinate legislation tabled on 1 April 2025

Health, Environment and Innovation Committee



Report No. 7

58th Parliament, June 2025

Overview

This report summarises the committee's findings following its examination of the subordinate legislation within its portfolio areas tabled on 1 April 2025. It reports on any issues identified by the committee relating to the policy to be given effect by the legislation, fundamental legislative principles and lawfulness. It also reports on the compliance of the explanatory notes with the *Legislative Standards Act 1992* (LSA).¹

The report also notes any issues identified by the committee in its consideration of compliance with the *Human Rights Act 2019* (HRA)² and the human rights certificates tabled with the subordinate legislation.³

Subordinate legislation examined

No.	Subordinate legislation	Date tabled	Disallowance date
16	Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation 2025	1 April 2025	26 June 2025

* Disallowance dates are based on proposed sitting dates as advised by the Leader of the House. These dates are subject to change.

Committee consideration of the subordinate legislation

Committee Comment



Unless noted below, the committee did not identify any significant issues regarding the policy, consistency with fundamental legislative principles, the lawfulness of the subordinate legislation or non-compliance with the HRA.

Similarly, unless noted below, the committee considers that the explanatory notes tabled with the subordinate legislation noted in this report comply with the requirements of section 24 of the LSA, which includes advice about consultation, and that the human rights certificates tabled with the subordinate legislation provide a sufficient level of information to facilitate understanding of the subordinate legislation in relation to their compatibility with the HRA.

1 SL No. 16 – Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation 2025

SL No. 16 declares 13 new nature refuges and additions to, or redescrptions of, two nature refuges.⁴ Under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act), a nature refuge is to be managed to do the following:

- conserve the area's significant cultural and natural resources
- provide for the controlled use of the area's cultural and natural resources; and

¹ *Legislative Standards Act 1992*, Part 4. See also, LSA s 4.

² *Human Rights Act 2019*, s 8, 13.

³ *Human Rights Act 2019*, s 41.

⁴ SL No. 16, Explanatory Notes, p 1.

- enable the interests of landholders to be taken into account.⁵

The primary goal of dedicating new areas, or amending others, is to permanently preserve, to the greatest extent possible, the area's natural condition and protect the area's cultural resources, to ultimately provide for ecologically sustainable activities, particularly ecotourism.⁶

The new nature refuges are:

- Alford's Gully Nature Refuge, which is part of lot 62 on SP111654. The area contains complex vegetation types across regional ecosystems and has a presence of threatened flora species and provides habitat for a number of threatened flora and fauna species.⁷
- Dendrolagus Nature Refuge, which is part of lot 1 on RP 741576. The area is a known habitat of multiple threatened flora and fauna species, while also providing landscape connectivity with adjoining state forests and national parks.⁸
- Glenham Nature Refuge, which is part of lot 3 on RP 741576. The area contains threatened regional ecosystems, as well as threatened flora and fauna, including the southern Cassowary. It will also provide landscape connectivity with adjacent state forests and national parks.⁹
- Graham's Park Nature Refuge, which is part of lot 1 on RP814141. The area contains a regional ecosystem with 'of concern' biodiversity status and has a suitable habitat for several threatened flora and fauna species. It will also provide landscape connectivity with the adjacent Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.¹⁰
- Hollindale Family Nature Refuge, which is part of lot 12 on SP 254919. The area is a known habitat for threatened flora and fauna species and provides landscape connectivity for adjacent national parks and nature refuges.¹¹
- LightHeart Forest Nature Refuge, which is the entirety of lot 12 and part of lot 13 on BK157101. The area contains threatened regional ecosystems and provides suitable habitat for threatened flora and fauna species.¹²
- Moonbeams Nature Refuge, which is part of lot 342 on NR1040. The area contains remnant vegetation of State significance and the known presence of threatened species, including the southern Cassowary, Lemuroid Ringtail Possum and

⁵ *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, s 45, 51.

⁶ SL No. 16, Explanatory Notes, p 1.

⁷ SL No. 16, Explanatory Notes, p 2.

⁸ SL No. 16, Explanatory Notes, p 2.

⁹ SL No. 16, Explanatory Notes, p 2.

¹⁰ SL No. 16, Explanatory Notes, p 2.

¹¹ SL No. 16, Explanatory Notes, p 2.

¹² SL No. 16, Explanatory Notes, p 2-3.

Tapping Green Eyed Frog. It also provides landscape connectivity with adjoining national parks and nature refuges.¹³

- Mount Ridgley Nature Refuge, which is part of lot 53 on CC562. The area has a known presence of endangered koalas, is a suitable habitat for a number of threatened species and has a regional ecosystem which has a low representation in protected areas across Queensland.¹⁴
- North Ridge Nature Refuge, which is part of lot 1 on RP57500. The area is known to be a suitable habitat for threatened flora and fauna, including, for example, koalas and the Richmond birdwing butterfly.¹⁵
- Quad's Nature Range, which is part of lot 104 on CI4335. The area has remnant vegetation and is a suitable habitat for the koala.¹⁶
- Rakuen Nature Refuge, which is part of lot 55 on RP887894. The area has known habitat of the Cassowary and contains suitable habitats for various threatened flora and fauna species. It also provides landscape connectivity with nearby national parks and nature refuges.¹⁷
- Rowlands Nature Refuge, which is part of lot 3 on RP49356. The area contains threatened and under-represented regional ecosystems, as well as habitat for the koala and landscape connectivity with nearby conservation parks and state forests.¹⁸
- Zoomers Nature Refuge, which is part of lot 4 on SP323017. The area contains suitable habitats for various threatened species and provides landscape connectivity with adjacent nature refuges.¹⁹

The amended nature refuges are:

- Bolger Bay Nature Refuge will be amended to include lot 2 on RP804289. The area is the habitat of endangered koalas, amongst other threatened species. The area also contains several regional ecosystems with biodiversity status 'of concern', or those ecosystems that otherwise have low representation in the protected area system.²⁰
- Rainforest Rescue Nature Refuge will be amended to include lot 2 on RP733654, lots 11 and 12 on RP738429 and lot 19 on RP738466. The area is a known habitat

¹³ SL No. 16, Explanatory Notes, p 3.

¹⁴ SL No. 16, Explanatory Notes, p 3.

¹⁵ SL No. 16, Explanatory Notes, p 3.

¹⁶ SL No. 16, Explanatory Notes, p 3.

¹⁷ SL No. 16, Explanatory Notes, p 3.

¹⁸ SL No. 16, Explanatory Notes, p 3.

¹⁹ SL No. 16, Explanatory Notes, p 3.

²⁰ SL No. 16, Explanatory Notes, p 2.

for the southern Cassowary and provides landscape connectivity with other protected areas, including the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.²¹

1.1 Consultation

The explanatory notes detail consultation that was undertaken with landholders and other relevant stakeholders in the development of the subordinate legislation.²² The explanatory notes provide that proposals to add, and redescribe, nature refuges across Queensland sought public consultation via the department website.²³

1.2 Human Rights Certificate

Section 41 of the HRA requires that the responsible Minister for the subordinate legislation must prepare a human rights certificate for the legislation. In the human rights certificate accompanying the subordinate legislation, the Minister states that the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation sought public feedback with respect to the proposed amendments' impacts on the HRA, and particularly on any actual or perceived impacts on the cultural rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The explanatory notes state that none were received. The human rights certificate contained a sufficient level of information to facilitate understanding of SL No. 16 in relation to its compatibility with human rights.

1.3 Explanatory Notes

The explanatory notes comply with part 4 of the LSA.



Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that the Legislative Assembly note this report.

Rob Molhoek MP
Chair

²¹ SL No. 16, Explanatory Notes, p 3.

²² SL No. 16, Explanatory Notes, p 5.

²³ SL No. 16. Explanatory Notes, p 5.

Health, Environment and Innovation Committee

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