



QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT **COMMITTEES**

Report on subordinate legislation tabled on 10 February 2026

Health, Environment and Innovation Committee



Report No. 23

58th Parliament, March 2026

Overview

This report summarises the committee's findings following its examination of the subordinate legislation within its portfolio areas tabled on 10 February 2026. 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
168	Forestry (State Forests) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2025	10 February 2026	14 May 2026

* 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. 168 – Forestry (State Forests) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2025

SL No. 168 is made under the *Forestry Act 1959* and *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act). It amends the *Forestry (State Forests) Regulation 1987* and the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Regulation 1994* to update and amend existing protected areas to permanently preserve, to the greatest extent possible, the area's natural condition, to

¹ *Legislative Standards Act 1992* (LSA), pt 4, s 4.

² *Human Rights Act 2019* (HRA), ss 8, 13.

³ HRA, s 41.

protect the area's cultural resources and values and provide for ecologically sustainable activities and ecotourism.⁴

SL No. 168 specifically provides for the:⁵

- revocation of one whole State forest for dedication as one new national park (scientific)
- additions to one national park (scientific)
- additions to two national parks
- revocation of one whole national park and part of four national parks
- revocation of part of one conservation park
- addition to and subsequent redescription of one nature refuge; and
- declaration of three new nature refuges.

New national park (scientific)

The entire Powrunna State Forest (about 43 kilometres north-west of St George) is revoked to allow the area to be dedicated as the new Dhuny Yumba (Home of the Wombat) National Park (scientific).⁶ This will provide the highest level of protection available under the NC Act and is 'necessary to appropriately manage threatening processes affecting recovery efforts for the critically endangered northern hairy-nosed wombat'.⁷

Revocations and dedications of national parks and conservation parks

The entire Black Mountain National Park (containing an area of 2.977 hectares, about 20 kilometres south of Cooktown) is revoked for road purposes.⁸ The explanatory notes state that the revocation 'is not expected to present significant impacts upon the values of the national park as the area already contains existing infrastructure and has been disturbed for many years'.⁹

Parts of other national parks are revoked for road purposes, but also to correct administrative errors, formalise historical access to land and to support other transfers of land.¹⁰ None of these revocations are expected to present significant impacts on the values of the relevant national parks.¹¹

Additionally, areas of unallocated State land are dedicated to two national parks.¹²

⁴ SL No. 168, explanatory notes, p 1.

⁵ SL No. 168, explanatory notes, p 1.

⁶ SL No. 168, explanatory notes, p 2; SL No. 168, ss 3, 5.

⁷ SL No. 168, explanatory notes, p 2.

⁸ SL No. 168, s 2.

⁹ SL No. 168, explanatory notes, p 3.

¹⁰ SL No. 168, explanatory notes, pp 3, 4; SL No. 168, s 6.

¹¹ SL No. 168, explanatory notes, pp 3, 4.

¹² SL No. 168, explanatory notes, pp 3-4; SL No. 168, s 6.

Part of another conservation park is revoked to resolve historical encroachment from the adjacent property.¹³

New nature refuges

Additional areas are declared as part of the existing Ballara Nature Refuge.¹⁴ Three new nature refuges are declared: Konminda Nature Refuge, Urannah Nature Refuge and Watson River Nature Refuge.¹⁵

1.1 Compatibility with human rights

Assessment of SL No. 168's compatibility with the HRA identified potential limits on the cultural rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples arising from the proposed amendments.

Cultural rights

SL No. 168 may limit the ability of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to maintain and strengthen their connection to the land due to the changes in status of certain areas of land and resulting boundary changes.¹⁶

The human rights certificate explains the purpose of these changes:

*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. The process of selecting and approving protected areas involves the relinquishing or authorising of relevant rights or interests of interested parties such as other state departments, resource companies or lease holders, where relevant. This has been completed for all proposed amendments...*¹⁷

As highlighted in the human rights certificate, protected areas are managed in consultation with relevant First Nations people.¹⁸ In relation to areas that are revoked by SL No. 168, the human rights certificate advises that the cultural values of each estate were considered in the proposal in the assessment stage and that native title rights and interests and cultural heritage obligations were satisfied by proponents prior to the progression of all proposals.¹⁹ All relevant groups were consulted about revocation areas and the proposals were supported.²⁰

¹³ SL No. 168, explanatory notes, p 4; SL No. 168, s 7.

¹⁴ SL No. 168, explanatory notes, p 4; SL No. 168, s 8.

¹⁵ SL No. 168, explanatory notes, p 4; SL No. 168, s 8.

¹⁶ SL No. 168, human rights certificate, pp 3-4.

¹⁷ SL No. 168, human rights certificate, p 2.

¹⁸ SL No. 168, human rights certificate, p 3.

¹⁹ SL No. 168, human rights certificate, p 4.

²⁰ SL No. 168, explanatory notes, p 6.

Committee Comment



The committee is satisfied that any potential limitation on cultural rights resulting from SL No. 168 is proportionate and justified, and that there has been sufficient consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who supported the proposals.

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.

Committee Comment



The committee is satisfied the human rights certificate contained a sufficient level of information to facilitate understanding of SL No. 168 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

Health, Environment and Innovation Committee

Chair Mr Rob Molhoek MP, Member for Southport

Deputy Chair Mr Joe Kelly MP, Member for Greenslopes

Members Ms Sandy Bolton MP, Member for Noosa

Ms Kerri-Anne Dooley MP, Member for Redcliffe

Dr Barbara O'Shea MP, Member for South Brisbane

Mr David Lee MP, Member for Hervey Bay