



HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 15 ON THE
NATURE CONSERVATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2012
QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION

On 13 November 2012, the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 (the Bill) was introduced into Parliament.

The Bill was subsequently referred to the Health and Community Services Committee (the committee) with a report back date of 7 February 2013.

On 7 February 2013, the committee tabled its Report No. 15 in relation to the Bill.

The committee made four recommendations. The Queensland Government response to the committee's recommendations is provided below:

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 be passed.

Government Response

The Government thanks the committee for its timely consideration of the Bill and appreciates the committee's recommendation that the Bill be passed.

Recommendation 2

The committee notes that a number of issues raised in evidence about ecotourism facilities are to be addressed in a policy framework that the Explanatory Notes state will be developed to guide the authorisation and development of those facilities.

The committee recommends that the Minister inform the Legislative Assembly during the second reading debate about the following:

- the scope and timing of the consultation that will inform the development of the policy framework,
- whether public comment will be sought on applications for each lease or authority for an ecotourism facility and the arrangements that will apply to trigger public comment on proposals, and
- what arrangements will be put in place, through lease conditions, performance criteria, rehabilitation bonds or other mechanisms, to specify who is responsible for rehabilitation of the site of an ecotourism facility when an operator leaves the facility, and what rehabilitation is required.

Government Response

The Government notes the committee's recommendation and the Minister will be pleased to inform the Legislative Assembly during the second reading debate of:

- the scope and timing of the consultation regarding the development of the implementation framework for ecotourism leases;

- the opportunities for public comment on applications for each lease or authority for an ecotourism facility;
- the arrangements that will apply to trigger public comment on proposals; and
- the development of arrangements for specifying who will be responsible for rehabilitation of the site of an ecotourism facility and what rehabilitation will be required.

Recommendation 3

The committee recommends that the Minister inform the Legislative Assembly during the second reading debate of the type of assessment criteria he envisages will be used to ensure that the area and time-frame provided under an occupation permit in a State forest is appropriate, including how forest management considerations and potential environmental, economic and social impacts will be taken into account.

Government Response

The Government notes the committee's recommendation and the Minister will be pleased to inform the Legislative Assembly during the second reading debate of the type of assessment criteria used to ensure that the area and time-frame provided under an occupation permit in a State forest is appropriate, including how forest management considerations and potential environmental, economic and social impacts will be taken into account.

Recommendation 4

The committee recommends that the Minister inform the Legislative Assembly during the second reading debate whether it would be possible for an occupation permit in a State forest to provide exclusive rights to occupy all or part of a State forest, and if so, the circumstances in which exclusive rights would be granted.

Government Response

The Government notes the committee's recommendation and the Minister will be pleased to inform the Legislative Assembly during the second reading debate of the operation of occupation permits in relation to the grant of exclusive rights to occupy.