1. The Queensland Government is committed to improving access to national parks and other public lands, while ensuring that the protected area estate is managed in a manner appropriate to the values that it contains.
2. The Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No.2) 2013 is the result of the second stage of the review of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992,* aimed at delivering on key government commitments, while continuing a focus on red tape reduction.
3. This Bill proposes a range of legislative reforms in order to provide a more consistent and effective framework for managing Queensland’s parks and forests.
4. Specifically, the Bill amends the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* to:

 reform the protected area management framework, including broadening the object of the Act, reducing the number of tenures and revising associated management principles in order to simplify the Act and enable increased access to protected areas.

 streamline current management planning processes for protected areas to allow for greater efficiency and flexibility in planning.

 reduce the State’s exposure to liability arising out of incidents on Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service managed lands, given key risks associated with increasing access.

 review and streamline provisions relating to conservation officer proof of authority requirements; offence provisions for providing false and misleading information and selling dugong and turtle meat and products; and requirements for conservation planning.

1. The Bill also amends:

 the *Forestry Act 1959* in line with proposed amendments to reduce the State’s exposure to liability, including coverage for the licensee on State forest plantation licence areas.

 the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006* and the *Marine Parks Act 2004* to reduce the State’s exposure to liability and streamline processes for reviewing management plans.

1. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2013 into the Legislative Assembly.
2. *Attachments*
* [Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2013](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)