1. Protected areas form the cornerstone of Queensland’s nature conservation programs currently cover 7.8% of the state. The protected areas include privately owned and managed protected areas (nature refuges) and state owned managed and jointly managed protected areas (national parks, conservation parks and resources reserves). These areas are managed for nature or heritage conservation purposes and receive formal protection under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.
2. The Queensland Government has committed to securing and conserving representative samples of Queensland’s biodiversity in national parks, and expanding the overall protected area estate (both privately and publicly owned areas) towards an overall coverage of 17% of Queensland in line with targets set through the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, to which Australia is a signatory.
3. The Queensland Government has developed a draft Protected Area Strategy for consultation with the community on the challenges and opportunities for expanding and managing Queensland’s protected areas.
4. The draft Strategy outlines a vision, principles and actions aimed at facilitating an increase in the current protected area estate and providing for its effective management.
5. Cabinet approved the release of a draft Protected Area Strategy for public consultation.
6. Cabinet noted the significant, ongoing challenges involved in expanding and effectively managing the protected area estate.
7. *Attachments*
* [Draft Protected Area Strategy](Attachments/DraftStrategy.PDF)