1. The Nature Conservation (Special Wildlife Reserves) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 seeks to introduce a new class of privately managed protected area under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, a special wildlife reserve, which is protected from incompatible land uses, and also seeks to streamline administrative processes for private protected areas.
2. This will provide a secure investment environment for conservation organisations and philanthropists seeking to invest in the protection and management of Queensland’s outstanding natural areas.
3. The Bill outlines a process for the notification of parties with an interest in an area proposed for a special wildlife reserve, and requires that a special wildlife reserve can only be established with the consent of interest holders who would be materially affected by it.
4. Other amendments are proposed to streamline the process by which conservation agreements (for special wildlife reserves and nature refuges) survive tenure dealings, to reduce the administrative burden on both landholders and government, and to provide clarity that leasehold land can, along with its lease purpose, also be used as a special wildlife reserve or nature refuge.
5. The Bill also outlines minor and consequential amendments to the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014* to clarify administrative arrangements for approving offset proposals that deliver offset conditions imposed under the recently commenced *Planning Act 2016*. These minor changes improve the effectiveness and efficiency of decision-making for that Act without affecting arrangements for offsets required under the *Environment Protection Act 1994*, the Nature Conservation Act and the *Marine Parks Act 2004*.
6. The Bill also proposes an amendment to the Environmental Protection Act that will enable activities that occur in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park but partially in Queensland waters, to be regulated under the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2008*. The amendment will ensure that risks to the Great Barrier Reef can be managed consistently regardless of whether potentially harmful activities are conducted wholly within Queensland waters or partly within Queensland waters and partly in adjacent Commonwealth waters, within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
7. For these purposes, the Bill amends the *Nature Conservation Act 1992, Biodiscovery Act 2004, Environmental Offsets Act 2014, Environmental Protection Act 1994, Forestry Act 1959, Fossicking Act 1994, Land Act 1994, Land Title Act 1994, Mineral Resources Act 1989* and *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.
8. Cabinet approved that the Nature Conservation (Special Wildlife Reserves) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 be introduced into the Legislative Assembly.
9. *Attachments*
   * [Nature Conservation (Special Wildlife Reserves) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
   * [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)