1. The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has reviewed the protected plants legislative framework in Queensland.
2. As a result of the review, the department has prepared new legislation governing protected plants in Queensland, with provisions primarily consolidated within the *Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006*, rather than being spread across multiple legislative instruments as was formerly the case.
3. The new legislation adopts a risk-based approach that will reduce unnecessary regulatory burden and achieve significant cost savings for business and government, while improving biodiversity outcomes.
4. Key aspects of the new legislative framework include:
* Regulation of clearing will be focussed on threatened and near threatened plant species while clearing of least concern species will generally be able to occur without the requirement of a permit. A number of clearing exemptions will also be available, covering certain activities.
* Flora surveys to locate threatened and near threatened plant species will only be required in designated ‘high risk areas’ (clearly shown on a publicly available ‘flora survey trigger map’), reducing the area of the state within which proponents are required to conduct a flora survey prior to clearing from 100% to just 3.5%.
* Restrictions on harvesting and growing of protected plants will be reduced.
* Trade in protected plants will be simplified by removing the need for a trade licence, with traders required to maintain records as specified in a new code of practice.
1. As part of the Queensland Government’s commitment to reduce and simplify regulation, two pieces of subordinate legislation are being repealed (the *Nature Conservation (Protected Plants) Conservation Plan 2000* and the *Nature Conservation (Protected Plants Harvest Period) Notice 2013*), the number of permits and licences applying to protected plants is being reduced from eleven to three, and permit and licence currency periods are being extended.
2. Cabinet endorsed that the *Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment and Repeal Regulation (No. 1) 2014* be recommended to the Governor in Council for approval.
3. *Attachments*
* [*Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment and Repeal Regulation (No. 1) 2014*](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)