1. Under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA), commercial beekeeping is currently permitted on apiary sites in 49 national parks until 31 December 2024, under arrangements established as a result of transferring State forest land to national parks.
2. National parks are managed to provide, to the greatest possible extent, for the permanent preservation of the area’s natural condition and the protection of the area’s cultural resources and value. However, in recognition of the likely impacts on the horticultural and beekeeping industries from beekeepers losing access to national park sites in 2024, the amendments to the NCA will provide an extension to allow beekeeping on national parks until 31 December 2044, limited to where beekeeping was an existing use prior to the transfer of land to national park. Work will be undertaken during this time to develop opportunities for beekeeping to be transitioned out of national parks to other land.
3. Unrelated to beekeeping, additional amendments have been identified to:
* enhance capacity to respond to misconduct on Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service managed areas such as State forests, marine parks, recreation areas and national parks by (i) providing new offences for impersonating a forest officer and a ranger; and (ii) expanding obstruction offences so that they apply to obstructing conservation officers, authorised officers and inspectors in the performance of their functions;
* relocate from subordinate legislation to the NCA certain regulatory provisions relating to (i) powers of officers to seize and deal with things that are seized, (ii) approved forms and (iii) internal and external reviews of decisions to reflect current drafting standards and (iv) make necessary consequential amendments to the *State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014*;
* amend the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993* (Wet Tropics Act) to (i) reflect National Cabinet changes to intergovernmental arrangements between the State and Commonwealth following a review of the former Council of Australian Governments Councils and Ministerial Forums by Mr Peter Conran AM, (ii) streamline the process for making consequential amendments to the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998 when changes are required to reflect amendments to the Wet Tropics Act, and (iii) remove an outdated version of the Management scheme intergovernmental agreement for the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area from schedule 1 of the Wet Tropics Act and instead referencing it via a definition; and
* correct several minor errors in the NCA and the Wet Tropics Act.
1. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 into the Legislative Assembly.
2. *Attachments*:
* [Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)
* [Human Rights Statement of Compatibility](Attachments/SoC.PDF)