1. The Queensland Government is committed to growing a four pillar economy, focusing on tourism, agriculture, resources and construction.
2. On 26 June 2012, the Premier reached a partnership agreement with the Queensland Tourism Industry Council as part of the DestinationQ initiative. Under this agreement, the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing (NPRSR) is chartered with *inter alia* reviewing the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA), to enable greater access to Queensland’s national parks for ecotourism.
3. The Bill will insert new provisions in the NCA, to enable the Chief Executive of NPRSR and Indigenous landholders (where joint approval is required) to authorise ecotourism facilities in national park, national park (recovery), national park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) and Indigenous joint management areas (North Stradbroke Island). Note that the NCA provides for commercial use of other protected tenures such as conservation park and resources reserve, and as such the amendment is specific to the national park tenure
4. This Bill will also streamline other processes for dealings under the NCA and the *Forestry Act 1959*, and remove unnecessary legislation to meet the Government’s program of streamlining and reducing regulation.
5. In particular, the Bill will simplify the approach to the renewal and authorisation of utilities infrastructure that was in place prior to the creation of a national park. This approach recognises that the impact created by the infrastructure has already occurred and that a lower level of impact assessment is required to renew or grant the authority.
6. Secondly, the Bill will also expand both the time and area for occupation permits on State forests. This will substantially reduce the number of permits and applications that need to be made for the use and occupancy of State forest lands by industry and other forest users.
7. Thirdly, the Bill will repeal the *Brisbane Forest Park Act 1977*, which is no longer required to fulfil the coordinating function for which it was established.
8. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 into the Legislative Assembly.
9. *Attachments*
* [Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)