



# Protected Areas

Despite being Australia's most biologically diverse state, Queensland is failing to deliver a protected area network adequate to address the increasing threats from habitat destruction, invasive species and climate change. Protection and proper management of 17% of Queensland under a mix of National Parks, Nature Refuges and other forms of conservation tenure, would provide a safe-haven for endangered species otherwise at serious risk. National parks are worth over \$3.7 billion to Queensland's economy, provide jobs, protect cultural values, and connect us with rich landscapes essential for our well being.

## Suggested policy solutions for the next Queensland government:

- Finalise and begin to implement the Queensland Protected Area Strategy before the state election (or, for non-government parties, commit to do this by the end of 2020).
- Expand joint management and First Nations ownership of National Parks across Queensland.
- Fund 200 new Indigenous land and sea ranger positions over the next 10 years.
- Amend the Nature Conservation Act to ensure National Parks are protected from inappropriate commercial development (fully restoring the cardinal principle<sup>2</sup>).
- Prevent private commercial developments within the public protected area estate.
- Commit to increased investment of:
  - » \$55 million annually to purchase land for new national parks.
  - » \$56 million per year for improved management of national parks.
  - » \$25 million per year for private protected areas.

## No backwards steps:

- Continue the Cape York tenure resolution program.
- Continue investing in First Nations land management across the protected area estate.
- Continue working with First Nations groups on the expansion and nomination of World Heritage areas.
- No further changes to the SEQ Forests Agreement, ie. all state forests in the Agreement to have conservation tenure by 2026.
- Deliver the the 20000ha under the SEQFA before 2024 and continue the transitions for remainder<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> The cardinal principle for managing national parks is 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 values:  
<https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/management/plans-strategies/principles>

<sup>3</sup> <https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/88797>