



Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs

Our Ref: CTS 07535/22
Your Ref: A863901

1 William Street Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 5078 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7140
Email environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au

9 June 2022

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 12 May 2022 regarding Parliamentary Petition No. 3707-22 requesting that the Queensland Parliament dedicate Redwood Park, near Toowoomba, as a national park to prevent the construction of more mountain bike trails.

Redwood Park is a reserve declared under the *Land Act 1994* and the Toowoomba Regional Council is the Trustee of the reserve. I note that Redwood Park has an existing network of shared walking/mountain biking trails and a picnic area and is valued by the local community for both the natural environment and the recreational activities available.

The expansion of Queensland's protected area system is guided by *Queensland's Protected Area Strategy 2020-2030* (the Strategy), a 10-year plan for supporting the growth, management and sustainability of national parks and other protected areas. The Strategy focuses on protecting representative samples of the State's biodiversity, with the greatest overall biodiversity conservation benefits realised by acquiring and protecting land containing ecosystems that are either not represented in the existing protected area system or those that are currently poorly represented.

Although Redwood Park has some significant biodiversity values, its major ecosystems are already well represented within the protected area system and its reserve status and local government authority trusteeship arrangements already provide a framework for environmental protection of the site. In addition, the Queensland Government does not compulsorily acquire land for national parks and relies on the willingness of landowners, in this case the Toowoomba Regional Council, for the transfer of land to the protected area system.

Local government authority planning and development processes provide for public scrutiny and engagement in reserve management decisions. I would urge the petitioners to raise their concerns regarding further mountain bike trail development at Redwood Park through these and other available processes.

I trust that this information has been of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

Meaghan Scanlon MP
**Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef
Minister for Science and Youth Affairs**