

1993

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

THE SENATE

**WET TROPICS OF QUEENSLAND WORLD HERITAGE AREA
CONSERVATION BILL 1993**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the Minister for the Environment, Sport and
Territories, The Hon Ros Kelly, MP)

WET TROPICS OF QUEENSLAND WORLD HERITAGE AREA CONSERVATION BILL 1993

GENERAL OUTLINE

The purpose of this Bill is to bring into effect permanent management arrangements, which are set out in the Agreement made between the Commonwealth and Queensland on 16 November 1990, and are incorporated into the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993* (Qld) as Schedule 1. The arrangements implement the Commonwealth's international obligations for the protection of the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Property under the *Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* (the World Heritage Convention).

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Bill has no financial implications.

NOTES ON CLAUSES

Clause 1 - Short Title

1. This clause provides for the Act to be cited as the *Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Conservation Act 1993*.

Clause 2 - Commencement

2. This clause provides that the Act shall come into operation on the day it receives the Royal Assent.

Clause 3 - Object of the Act

3. This clause makes clear the object of the Act is to give effect to the Agreement between the Commonwealth and Queensland on the conservation of the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area.

Clause 4 - Definitions

4. This clause provides that the definition of "Authority" is consistent with that in the Queensland Act and defines "Queensland Act" as being the *Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Conservation Act 1993*.

Clause 5 - Nomination of members of the board of the Wet Tropics Management Authority

5. This clause permits the Minister to nominate two persons to be appointed to the Board of Directors of the Wet Tropics Management Authority in accordance with section 14 (b) of the Queensland Act.

Clause 6 - Secondment of staff to Authority

6. This clause permits the Minister to make arrangements for the services of officers and employees of the Australian Public Service and staff of Commonwealth authorities to be made available to the Authority. This provision is complementary to section 32 of the Queensland Act.

Clause 7 - Operation of World Heritage Properties Conservation Act

7. This clause provides that nothing in the Act is intended to affect the operation of the *World Heritage Properties Conservation Act 1983*. The purpose of this provision is to ensure that the Minister's responsibilities under that Act are not abrogated.

Clause 8 - Tabling of annual report of Authority

8. Subclause 8 (1) defines "annual report" in terms of section 63 of the Queensland Act which requires the Authority to provide the Minister and the Commonwealth with a report on the administration of the Queensland Act, financial statements for the year and the state of the Wet Tropics Area within three months of the end of each financial year.

Subclause 8 (2) provides that the Minister must table the annual report in each House of the Parliament within 15 sitting days of that House after the report has been received.

