



PO Box 30
Magnetic Island
Queensland, 4819

Committee Secretary
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Queensland Parliament
aec@parliament.qld.gov.au

19th November 2015

**Submission to the inquiry into the Nature Conservation and Other
Legislation Amendment Bill 2015.**

Magnetic Island Nature Care Association (MINCA) is an incorporated voluntary conservation group established with the objects of supporting and encouraging the protection and sustainable use of Magnetic Island, its adjacent waters and the associated region. MINCA are trustees for the Bolger Bay Regional Park and are responsible for its management for nature conservation.

MINCA opposed the changes by the Newman government to the NCA and commends the State Government for the proposed amendments. Like others in the conservation movement we acknowledge that the previous NCA was the result of many years of consultation and development and was an effective tool for the protection and management of nature at all scales. Like others in the conservation movement we can see no good reason why the entire NCA should not be resurrected in its original form.

However we strongly support most of the proposed amendments, and in particular the re-instatement of "the conservation of nature" as the sole object of the act.

With regard to reverting certain rolling term leases to term leases however, we are concerned that they are within the Land Act, and the views of the NCA Chief Executive need only be "taken into account". If leases of any kind are to operate on protected areas under the NCA, then they should be entirely governed by that act.

With regard to Conservation Parks, there should be no commercial use, particularly grazing. In the unlikely event that grazing is required for temporary management purposes, it could be given effect by the temporary declaration of a Special Management Area (controlled action). Commercial grazing or fishing are demonstrably not ecologically sustainable and should not be permitted in

protected areas. Protected areas cover less than 5% of the state and the primary purpose of the Act for these areas should prevail. Commercial activity permits could govern sustainable ecotourism tours.

Conservation Parks encompass a large number of (previously) national parks and environmental parks dedicated to protect what at the time of dedication were often considered to be of state value, but subsequently deemed too small to justify their conservation management by greatly stretched National Park rangers. Most continue to have very high biodiversity and/or scenic values and require careful management due to their small size, risk of weed and animal pest invasions, and, in many cases, isolation from other bushland. For example the Regional Park currently managed by MINCA was partly purchased using national funding under the National Reserves System Program, and is part of the National Reserve System. The agreements for this area specifically require that it be managed primarily for habitat conservation. As with most Conservation Parks it is too small to withstand increased use pressures without a corresponding increase in management intensity.

MINCA emphatically requests that Section 21(1)(c) be removed from the proposed amendments.

With regard to Section 213, subsection (4) should not permit a continuation of activities that are inconsistent with the management principles for that area. Poor past decisions regarding leases and uses clearly contrary to the purpose of the act should not be perpetrated by the new legislation. They should be revoked.

With regard to Section 214, there should be a moratorium on accepting and assessing new applications for leases and other authorities inconsistent with the management principles for the area until the act has been amended.


With regard to term leases under Section 521ZQ, provision should be made for their termination if they are shown to be contrary to the object of the act.

With regard to Section 521ZR, there should be a moratorium on accepting applications to extend leases between now and the passage of the revised act.

Thank you for the opportunity for making this submission. This submission has the full support of the Executive Committee of MINCA.

Should you require further information on particular aspects of this submission please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gethin Morgan', with a stylized, cursive script.

Gethin Morgan
President.
Magnetic Island Nature Care.