

Agriculture and Environment Committee

From: Peter Storer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 23 November 2015 4:40 PM
To: Agriculture and Environment Committee
Subject: Submission: Amendments to the Nature Conservation Act 1992

Categories: EA to Process

Dear Chair, Agriculture and Environment Committee

I welcome the reinstatement of the sole object of the act (the conservation of nature) and the reinstatement of three abolished classes of protected area – national park (scientific), conservation park, and resources reserve. I also welcome the removal of special management areas (scientific) from the management principles of national parks.

However I express concern that this opportunity had not been taken to remove the other special management area provided for in the management principles of national parks in section 17 of the NC Act – special management area (controlled action). That would have gone a long way to reinstating the cardinal principle for the management of national parks: an election commitment of the present government. This could have been done by reinstating national park (recovery), or by redesignating all those areas as conservation parks.

I request that other classes of protected area that were abolished should also be reinstated – namely Wilderness Area, World Heritage Management Area, International Agreement Area, and Coordinated Conservation Area. These all have a part to play in maintaining a range of protected areas that are in step with the global categories established by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

I am especially concerned that the term “ecotourism facility”, which was inserted into section 35(1)(a) of the Nature Conservation Act in 2013, has not been removed from the legislation. This provision has the capacity to allow the development of tourist resorts inside national parks, and it overrides the cardinal principle of conservation. Such development would overturn more than a century of park management on Queensland mainland parks where tourist resorts have been (and still should be) encouraged on private land adjacent to national parks, but not constructed inside the parks themselves.

I would be grateful if you would confirm receipt and that this is a properly made submission.

Your sincerely

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