



**Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland  
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Ms Jennifer Howard MP  
The Chair,  
Agriculture and Environment Committee,  
Parliament House,  
Brisbane Qld 4000.

[aec@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:aec@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Ms Howard

**Submission on changes proposed to the *Nature Conservation Act 1992 (NC Act)* as proposed in the *Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015***

I write on behalf of the Committee of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland Brisbane Branch (WPSQ Bne), which has a membership of approximately 150, and is an independently incorporated branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, a not-for-profit community environmental organisation founded in 1962.

In general, WPSQ Bne welcomes the proposed amendments to the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* that are contained in the Bill, in particular:

- 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; and
- the removal of special management areas (scientific) from the management principles of national parks (as a consequence of reinstating national parks (scientific)).

However, we would also like to see the removal of 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). This would assist to reinstate the cardinal principle for the management of national parks, an election commitment of the present government. This could be done by reinstating national park (recovery), or by redesignating all those areas as conservation parks.

We would 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. They 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).

We express concern 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. Such development would overturn more than a century of park management on Queensland mainland parks where tourist resorts have been encouraged on private land adjacent to national parks but not inside parks.

We thank you for this opportunity to express our views to strengthen the legislation to provide for the conservation of nature.

Yours sincerely,

LEANNE BOWDEN  
PRESIDENT, WPSQ BRISBANE