

**TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION INC**

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**Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015**

Tamborine Mountain Natural History Association believes that the previous set of amendments to the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act) was unacceptable and effectively destroyed the Act's capacity to operate as a nature conservation statute, a cardinal principal that had been previously accepted on a bipartisan basis. Consequently the association welcomes and supports the reinstatement of "the conservation of nature" as the sole object of the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

In terms of protected areas, high impact activities including some types of outdoor recreation, development and grazing can be considered contrary to the cardinal principle. These uses could be more appropriately located in specific areas, rather than degrading the national park system to satisfy these needs. The proposed amendments recognise the intrinsic value of national parks beyond these other purposes.

The reinstatement of national park (scientific) is welcome and the reinstatement of national park (recovery) does need to be considered. This was designed to allow for restoration of land that was destined to become national park and the restoration requirements can take many years to achieve

The slow rate of production of management plans for protected areas was identified in an audit of the NC Act some years ago as a significant deficiency. The return of former management principles is welcome as is the reinstatement of public consultation, it is important that public feedback be facilitated. The requirement for each park or aggregation of parks to have a management plan is also required.

In summary our association both welcomes and supports the proposed amendments and commends the government for progressing the policy objectives which will be achieved by the implementation of these amendments.

Yours sincerely

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