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25 November 2015

The Chair
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane Qld 4000
Email: aec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Bill.

We support the proposed amendments to the Nature Conservation Act 1992

We are extremely pleased to see that the Bill advocates the reinstatement of the sole object of the Act ie the Conservation of Nature, as well as the reinstatement of three abolished classes of protected areas

- ✓ National Park (scientific)
- ✓ Conservation Park
- ✓ Resources Reserve

We welcome the removal of Special Management Areas (scientific) from the management principles of National Parks,, due to the reinstatement of National Parks (scientific).

We are, however, sorry that this opportunity has not been taken to remove the other Special Management Area provided for in the management principles of National Parks in Section 17 of the Nature Conservation Act – Special Management Area (controlled action).

This would have gone a long way to reinstating the cardinal principle for the management of National Parks, an election commitment of your government. This could have been done by reinstating the designation of National Park (recovery), or by redesignating all those areas as conservation parks.

We would like to ask that other classes of Protected Area that were abolished be reinstated:

- Wilderness Area,

- World Heritage Management Area
- International Agreement Area
- Coordinated Conservation Area

Notwithstanding the extent to which these protected areas have been used in the past, they all have a part to play in maintaining a range of protected areas that are in line with the global categories established by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

We are 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. Such development would overturn more than a century of park management on Queensland mainland parks.

Tourist resorts have been welcomed and encouraged on private lands adjacent to National Parks, and will continue to be, but they should not be permitted inside the Parks.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jill Chamberlain', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jill Chamberlain OAM
Vice President